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Kent on Sunday

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Mid Edition No 618

POLICE »

Ann Barnes vows to change

Crime commissioner turns over new leaf

POLITICS »

Let's get ready to rumble

Focus on key political battlegrounds for 2015

DEATH »

Peaches' final hours

She was raised in the county and died in it; inquest confirms drugs tragedy

EVENTS »

Your guide to Lounge on the Farm

Festival map and stage times inside

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Why Ukip could be the deciding vote in General Election

NORMALLY in the build-up to an election, it is more often than not that the main discussion point in the county is just what will be the margin of a Conservative victory.

When we all take a jaunt to the polling booths next May, however, things may be a little different.

Because the rise of Ukip could pull the rug from under the Tories' feet.

It's not that anyone realistically expects Ukip to be sending a big contingent to Westminster – in truth it would seem likely only Nigel Farage stands any chance of being elected from his party – but its ability to split the vote could create some interesting movement in a number of seats.

As part of what will be no doubt our extensive countdown, we this week take a look at three seats we believe will become key battlegrounds, with some fascinating scraps between candidates.

Even if, when the votes are counted, the status quo remains, it's fair to say this election will be the most fascinating since Tony Blair swept to power in 1997.

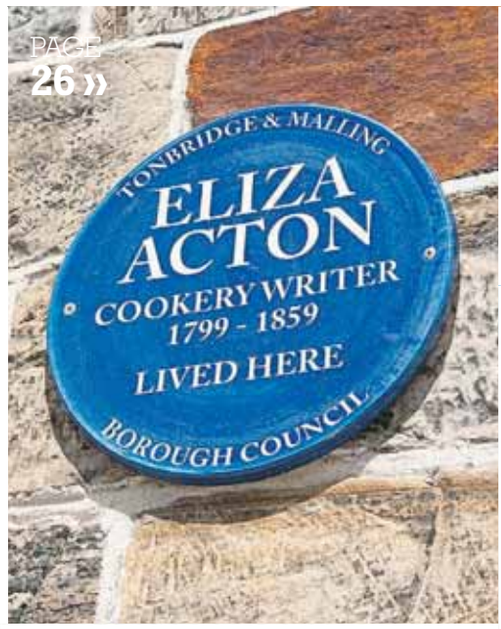
A story which has kept us morbidly fascinated this week was the inquest into the tragic death of Peaches Geldof and the verdict that it was due to a heroin overdose.

Regardless of your views on drugs or celebrity, we should be united in wishing only our condolences to her friends and family. Everyone makes mistakes, everyone is capable of making bad decisions. This one cost the 25-year-old, her two young sons, her husband and her family a terrible, terrible price.

Elsewhere, there's plenty of fascinating articles inside to lift your mood, from an artist whose canvas is our sandy beaches to a guide to popular music festival Lounge on the Farm.

Have a great weekend.

Editor **Chris Britcher**



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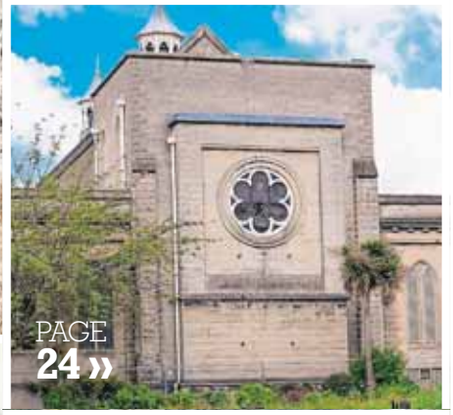

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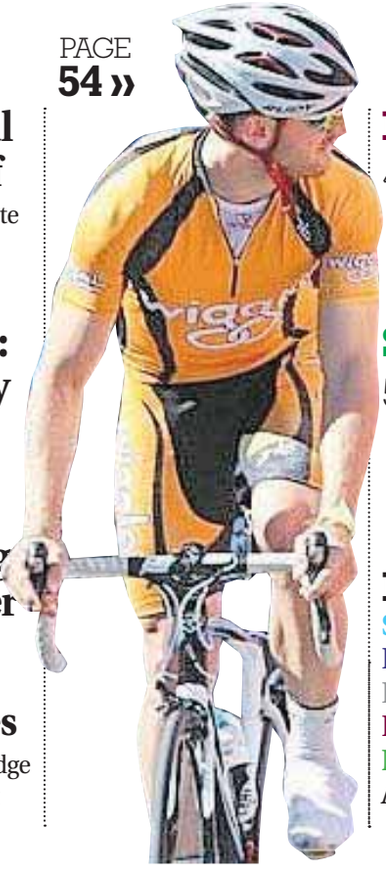

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Mrs Bullock, Sidcup

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Mr Dickinson, London

"Clean and considerate, the fitter worked all day without a break, a pleasure to have in our home and finished the job on time."
Mr Cooper, Sandwich

"Telesales staff, a pleasure to deal with, fitters have been pleasant and helpful. Can't fault the workmanship, cleaned up and tidied as they went along. Proper job." **Mrs Hichens, Maidstone**

"What was good with the sales representative was the fact he gave us no rubbish "I'm going to ring my manager". We will come back for that alone. The fitting team were professional and polite and got on with the job." **Mrs Boylett, Sussex**

"Fitters were courteous and helpful, answered any questions or queries, kept site as clean and tidy as possible. Many thanks for a good service."
Mrs Murphy, Maidstone

"Fantastic product, high quality finish, fitters very professional, very tidy. It has transformed our house, should have replaced our tired conservatory years ago. Would highly recommend to everyone. Thank you". **Mr Poulter, Sittingbourne**

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Ann Barnes promises to shift the focus from her

By Sarah Linney
sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

CHANGE: Kent PCC stands in front of Ann Force One, her 'mobile office'. Picture: Channel 4

POLICE and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes has officially outlined how she will get her act together after the debacle of the Channel 4 documentary which saw her exposed to ridicule.

At a meeting of the the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel at County Hall on Thursday afternoon, the commissioner gave assurances that her 'behaviour' would change, that she would do less individual publicity – and that she would retire her £15,000 van, known as Ann Force One.

However, that decision did meet some opposition from panel members, who said it was an asset to her duties and may get a reprieve after further consideration.

The meeting followed the airing of the universally-derided Meet the Commissioner documentary in May, in which Mrs Barnes appeared unable to define her own job, brought her dogs into a meeting and talked for so long at a public meeting that some people fell asleep.

Following the documentary, she was hauled before the panel, which scrutinises her decisions, where she escaped a vote of no confidence but was told that she must come up with a strategy on how she would "change her approach".

Mrs Barnes told the panel this afternoon that she would move away from her efforts to raise awareness of her role towards a "more business as usual mode".

"There will be less of the 'confetti big bang' publicity, less of me an individual and more focus on the output and delivery," she said.

"And I will retire my van, sadly. The decision is a difficult one as I don't know what I'm going to replace it with; it's a mobile office.

"But its reputation has been tarnished and I don't want that to detract from engagement with people.

"At the last meeting there was also a lot of comment from members about my personal style and tone.

"I have reflected carefully on what you said and all interactions of mine from now on will look first at the audience and will be tailored to the audience, using the right mix of tone and language and style."

Mrs Barnes said she would also give her website a more corporate feel and remove her name from the corporate Twitter account, and would spend more time meeting police officers informally.

"I need to put right the upset that some members of Kent Police feel," she added.

Panel chairman Mike Hill said he was "pleased" that Mrs Barnes had listened.

Cannibal fetishist faces jail term after attempt to groom 14-year-old

A SELF-confessed cannibal fetishist has been found guilty of attempting to meet a girl under the age of 16 following sexual grooming.

He had stated in chats with her that he wanted to eat her.

This week, a jury at Canterbury Crown Court unanimously agreed that Dale Stanley Bolinger, 58, formerly of Davidson Road, Canterbury, was guilty of the offence.

He was convicted after emails were found between him and a person claiming to be a 14-year-old girl named Eva Gonza.

During the email exchanges, Bolinger told the girl that he had got an axe and asked her if she was ready to meet him. The girl agreed to meet Bolinger at Ashford International train station after he outlined what sexual acts he would like to perform on her before killing and eating her.

She never met him at the station in September 2012 and her identity has remained a mystery.

Bolinger was found guilty of the offence and pleaded guilty to 10 other offences, one of which was administering poison.

He had carried this out in 2010, when he held a cloth saturated with dry-cleaning fluid over a female friend's nose and mouth.

The former nurse had used the pseudonym 'Meatmarketman' to chat with people on a fetish website, discussing topics such as how to kidnap women and kill and eat them.

The investigation into Bolinger was conducted on both sides of the Atlantic, with the American FBI working in tandem with police in Kent.

He was arrested on February 21 and pleaded guilty to seven charges of publishing an obscene article, two charges of possessing an indecent photograph of a child and the single charge of administering poison.

During interviews with police, Bolinger admitted his interest in cannibalism but told officers that it was nothing more than a fantasy and that he had never acted on it.

He will be sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court in September.

Arise Sir Hugh – ex sports minister gets knighthood

FAVERSHAM MP Hugh Roberston has been knighted for his work on the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Sir Hugh, who was minister for sport from 2010-12, was also given the award for his work as a minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with responsibility for the Middle East, North Africa and counter-terrorism.

He said the news was "both exciting and humbling".

He was shadow sports and Olympics minister from 2004 until the Conservatives were elected in 2010, making him one of the two politicians, alongside Dame Tessa Jowell, who saw London 2012 through from bid to delivery.

He stepped down from the Cabinet during the recent reshuffle to spend more time with his family.

Sir Hugh said: "It was a terrific privilege to be part of London 2012."

Demolition work finally gets under way on cinema site

IT HAS only taken 14 years, but the bulldozers finally moved on to the site of the long-closed cinema in the centre of Tunbridge Wells this week.

The former ABC picture house closed in 2000, but efforts to redevelop the site have constantly fallen through, leaving it as one of the historic spa town's biggest eye-sores.

Now, however, 12 weeks of demolition work has got under way.

Not that the main buiding will go just yet – the first stage of the work is primarily on surrounding buildings and the internal part of the building.

Ed Bellhouse, of developer Bellhouse Joseph, the joint venture behind the scheme, told us: "Work is progressing well and demolition began in earnest on Tuesday."

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Bid to bring abandoned brown bears to county

WILDLIFE conservation project Wildwood is looking to raise £50,000 to rescue two brown bears and bring them back to its park near Canterbury.

The charity runs the popular attraction in Herne Common. Now it is hoping to come to the rescue of the majestic creatures.

Explains a spokesman: "The bears are currently kept in small, barren concrete pits in an abandoned bear-breeding centre called Kormisosh, in Bulgaria.

"Kormisosh was used to breed bears to be shot by hunters until 1993, when bear-hunting was outlawed. As a result, Kormisosh was abandoned, leaving the bears to a life of misery and neglect."

It has set a target of £50,000 to fund the building of a new enclosure, transporting the bears to Kent, vets' fees and a rehabilitiation programme.

Speeding foreign drivers set to lose escape route as police plan changes

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

FOREIGN lorry-drivers and tourists caught speeding on Kent's roads will no longer be able to get away with breaking the law, after tough new rules were proposed to clamp down on traffic offences across Europe.

The hardline approach has been proposed by Tispol, the European traffic police network that unites police forces across the Continent in a bid to make the roads safer.

Currently, drivers from abroad who speed on these roads are rarely prosecuted – with the same applying to British drivers on foreign roads.

It is estimated that more than 2,000 foreign drivers escaped charges after speeding in Kent.

According to the European Commission, non-resident drivers account for about 5 per cent of road traffic in the EU but are responsible for 15 per cent of detected speeding offences.

Cross-border enforcement could save 350-400 lives a year, according to an official impact assessment.

SPEED: Aim to catch law-breakers

Tispol director Pasi Kemppainen said: "Europe-wide adoption of the new proposal will lead to more effective enforcement, which encourages drivers to comply with safety rules and leads to a rapid reduction in deaths and injuries.

"Careful and considerate drivers, wherever they live in Europe, will have nothing to fear from this.

"As well as ensuring that no one has the chance to drive away from justice, the new legislation will help protect people when they drive abroad, because they will be using roads with greater compliance, fewer traffic offences and lower risks."

Antonio Avenoso, executive director of the European Transport Safety Council, said: "Letting foreign-registered drivers off the hook when they speed or drink and drive is unsafe, but it's also unfair.

"These rules are a smart way of deterring drivers from dangerous driving when they go abroad but will also help member states track down offenders that put other people's lives at risk.

"We urge EU member states and the new European Parliament to give the green light to the new proposal as soon as possible."

RIP: MidKent College's Sue McLeod

Tributes paid after college chief, 53, dies

STUDENTS and staff at MidKent College were mourning the loss this week of its principal, Sue McLeod, who died suddenly on Wednesday – just a month after being diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Mrs McLeod was just 53.

She had worked at the college for more than 20 years and became its first-ever female principal just last September.

Chief executive Stephen Grix said: "Sue was an exceptional leader who inspired students and staff alike, and her commitment and passion for teaching was what drove her.

"Her energy, enthusiasm and ability to motivate others will be sorely missed.

"We have lost a very dear friend and a great principal."

A former travel and tourism lecturer, she joined the college in 1993 before climbing the ranks. She took up her post as principal in September 2013.

The college has campuses in Medway and Maidstone.

A highlight of her time as principal came last February when she visited Buckingham Palace to accept the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education from the Queen on behalf of the college.

Vice-principal Simon Cook has been appointed acting principal by the board of governors.

Vigil service to mark Great War centenary

THERE will be a special vigil service at at Canterbury Cathedral on the evening of August 4 to mark the centenary of the beginning of the First World War.

It will also be taking part in the British Legion's national 'Lights Out' campaign, which urges everyone to switch off their lights between 10pm and 11pm as a mark of respect to the millions who lost their lives during the conflict, which raged from 1914-1918.

The cathedral's nave will be open from 6pm for visitors, with a vigil service at 9.45 pm.

A spokesman for the cathedral explained: "As the vigil service progresses, the lights in the cathedral will be gradually dimmed and extinguished, reflecting the words of Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary in 1914, that 'the lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime'."

The floodlights that illuminate the cathedral across the city will go out at 10pm.

Driver's bail extended in Brands Hatch case

A MOTORIST who was arrested on suspicion of driving on to the track at the world-famous Brands Hatch circuit in the middle of a race has had his bail extended.

Jack Cottle, 21, was arrested on suspicion of false imprisonment after a white VW Polo was driven on to the racecourse at Longfield, near West Kingsdown, last month.

A video of the escapade, shot by a back-seat passenger, apparently shows the car bypassing security from the circuit's outer gates before driving into the pit lane and then on to the track.

The clip, uploaded on to YouTube, has subsequently been viewed more than a million times across the world.

Mr Cottle, from Tonbridge, was arrested on June 15 following a police investigation. He claims he has received death threats since being linked to the case.

This week it was confirmed he has had his bail extended until August 18.

Star Orlando Bloom in special theatre visit

MOVIE star Orlando Bloom was in Canterbury this week, to make a very special visit to the place where his acting career began.

The Lord of the Rings and Pirates of the Caribbean heartthrob is the first patron of the Marlowe Youth Theatre so made his first visit to the theatre in almost four years to view its progress.

Mr Bloom, 37, was born and raised in the city and his mother still lives locally.

And it was on the stage of The Marlowe Theatre that he made his debut, aged just four.

He said: "As a child, theatre was so fantastic for my confidence and to be involved in drama was invaluable support. I am very happy to be an ambassador."

Mr Bloom offered some advice to six of the budding actors: "Go for it. Follow your dreams. Roll up your sleeves and work hard for it. Have no expectations and if you follow your heart and want to be creative, this should lead to a happy and creative life."

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A whole new story as Kent on Sunday enjoys its fresh surroundings

KENT on Sunday moved into its new offices earlier last month – so be sure to use our new address when you want to get in contact with us.

After 10 years in Smeeth, we began a new era for your favourite Kent weekend newspaper when we moved into Kent House in the heart of Ashford town centre.

Kent on Sunday's editorial, advertising and distribution teams are now based at the modern new offices, along with colleagues from our sister title, the glossy Kent Life magazine.

From here we will continue to deliver the finest regional newspaper for the entire county, with all the latest news, leisure, sport, business and your one-stop shop for the best offers from our loyal advertisers.

Archant Kent publisher Simon Irwin said: "We enjoyed a great period of success at Apple Barn, winning a host of awards over the years and firmly establishing ourselves as a class apart for a free newspaper.

"And we continue to evolve, which is why we're now greatly looking forward to starting the next chapter of our success story."

Which means if you want to get in touch, you'll need to now address all correspondence to:

Kent on Sunday, Archant Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. All email addresses remain the same.

Our telephone numbers have changed, too. For all advertising enquiries, call 01233 653461; for editorial, call 01233 653475; for distribution, call 01233 653470.

• This is a revised version of last week's KoS article.

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Manufacturer	Description	RRP	Our Price	Display Model Price
Nathan	Scandi Large Sofa	£1528	£1288	£894
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Peaches paid ultimate price for addiction she hid from husband

She had the world at her feet; a loving husband and family, but this week's inquest into the tragic death of Peaches Geldof revealed how demons she had fought to keep at bay for years resurfaced – with fatal consequences. **Molly Kersey** reports

IT WAS a very modern tragedy, conducted in the public spotlight and with appalling echos of a famous family's past.

Mother-of-two Peaches Geldof was just 25 when she was found slumped on the bed of a spare room in her home in Wrotham, near Sevenoaks, on April 7.

Her body was identified by her father, Sir Bob Geldof, at Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford.

This week, in a packed room at the Old Town Hall in Gravesend, a coroner heard of her last moments and ruled she had died after taking a heroin overdose.

It mirrored the death of her mother, the TV presenter Paula Yates who, in 2000, was found dead at her home in London having also taken an accidental overdose of the drug.

In a hushed room, police and medical experts attending the inquest explained the final known movements and actions of Ms Geldof, a model, presenter and journalist.

All had seemed normal in the 24 hours leading up to her death.

She had been in touch with friends and family, watched TV programmes and looked after her young sons.

But it seems that the night before her body was found she took heroin which proved such a shock to her system it killed her. Her family only raised the alarm the following day when they could not reach her.

Her musician husband, Thomas Cohen, the father of her two children Phaedra and Astala found her, slumped over a laptop and with drug equipment around her. He alerted the emergency teams.

As had been common when both were working, Mr Cohen had been staying in London.

It was apparent immediately that she was dead.

On Wednesday, Mr Cohen remained composed as he spoke of his wife's addiction which he thought she had beaten.

The couple had moved to Wrotham in September last year.

He told the court his wife had been on a two-and-a-half-year drug treatment programme which involved taking methadone – a popular replacement substance designed to ween users off heroin – and had been free of the drug from November 2013 until February of this year.

In February, he found suspicious messages on her phone which suggested she had started using the drug again. After he confronted her, she produced drugs which she had hidden in the loft of their home, and flushed them down the toilet.

Mt Cohen explained she had been having regular drug tests as part of her treatment, which she had told him were clear, but he now believes she had been lying about the results.

The truth was his wife had become hooked again.

When police searched her home following her death on April 7, they found hundreds of pounds worth of heroin with a high purity rating hidden in their bedroom, along with syringes and torniquets made from tights.

> **"The post-mortem found evidence of recent puncture marks on her elbows and her left hand; toxicology indicates a fatal level of heroin in the body"**
>
> **Paul Fotheringham,** detective chief inspector on Peaches' case

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Fotheringham, who led the police investigation, told the inquest: "It has been established Peaches Geldof had been previously addicted to heroin for a number of years, but that more recently had ceased taking the drug.

"Peaches had been supported by drug treatment workers for two-and-a-half years after being prescribed methadone. She had indicated her desire to come off methadone completely, and was following a plan to reduce the amount she was taking.

"The post-mortem found evidence of recent puncture marks on the inside of both elbows and on her left hand; the toxicology [report] indicates a fatal level of heroin in the body."

Initially, it had been reported by a national newspaper drugs were not suspected – that proved to be false.

It was also dismissed Ms Geldof had taken her own life.

Det Ch Insp Fotheringham explained: "There is no indication any third party was present or involved in her death and there is no indication Peaches intended to take her own life or harm herself in any way as she was reported to be of happy disposition and planning for the future."

A police investigation into who provided the drugs which killed her continues, but so far no arrests have been made.

Coroner Roger Hatch said: "I have no alternative other than to record the death was drug related and I express my sympathies to the families."

The last post on Ms Geldof's Twitter account – the day before she died – was of a photograph of her as a child in her mother's arms.

FAMILY'S WOE

FOR the people of Kent the drama was particularly painful.

The county has long held the Geldof family close to its heart.

Bob Geldof, known for raising millions of pounds for the starving in Africa through the Band Aid and Live Aid projects of the 1980s, had moved to a sprawling home in Davington, near Faversham, around 30 years ago.

There, along with wife Paula Yates, he raised his family.

In the church which adjoins the priory they inhabit, Mr Geldof and Ms Yates blessed their marriage and christened their children: Fifi Trixibelle, Peaches and Pixie.

But their lives would take a terrible turn for the worse.

In 1995 the couple split. Ms Yates had a high-profile relationship with Michael Hutchence, singer with rock band INXS. The pair would have a child together – Tiger Lily – the following year.

But in November 1997, Mr Hutchence was found dead in a Sydney hotel room. A coroner ruled it suicide.

A distraught Ms Yates failed to come to terms with his death. On September 17, 2000, on Pixie's 10th birthday, Ms Yates was found dead at her home in London. The coroner ruled it was due to an ''accidental'' heroin overdose. Peaches Geldof was just 11 at the time. She later admitted she never got over the death.

A funeral service took place in Davington.

Peaches would spend her childhood between the family home in Chelsea and Faversham.

She married Thomas Cohen in the Faversham church in 2012. It would also host her funeral.

When she returned to Kent in 2013, it should have been to raise her own two young children. Instead, the county would mourn her passing – another Geldof tragedy played out among us.

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So just who will have the 'X' factor come next year's General Election?

It is less than one year away and currently no one can forecast who will be the winner. As the political parties begin to ramp up their campaigns ahead of the nation going to the polls on May 7, 2015, **Sarah Linney** looks at four Kent seats that could be very keenly contested this time around

IF A week is a long time in politics, then nine months is long enough to give birth to a very exciting electoral campaign.

With the bitter taste of the European elections still in their mouths, the three main parties have less than a year to work out how they're going to do the thing that eluded them all last time – get enough MPs to form a government.

A quick look at the political map of Kent might suggest the Conservatives don't need to worry and no one else needs to bother. After a few forays into the red during the Blair years, in 2010 Kent went back to its natural colour – true blue all over.

The Tories now hold every seat in the county, with sizeable majorities all round.

But politics has changed a lot in five years, and with the rise in Ukip, which threatens to split right-leaning voters, and frustrations over the economy and continuing cuts, the assumption that the Tories will enjoy a comfortable victory across the county again is far from clear-cut.

As for the Liberal Democrats, it is hard to see them mounting a strong challenge given their flatlining in support.

We look at four seats we predict could see heavyweight battles in the race for Westminster.

THANET SOUTH

Current MP: **Laura Sandys**
Conservative.
Majority: 7,617

THANET South is a bit like the Lady Gaga of politics. It's constantly demanding media attention and no one quite knows what it's going to do next – but, whatever happens, it's sure to remain under the national spotlight.

Like so many other seats, it is the impact of Ukip that will determine its fate.

It performed strongly in Thanet in the European elections, polling a remarkable 46 per cent of the votes, and holds seven of the district's eight county council seats.

As a consequence, it's the seat where Ukip leader Nigel Farage is being most closely linked. Love him or loathe him, his charismatic appeal could be hard to derail. Especially as his presence will make the seat one of the most high-profile in the country.

To make it far more intriguing, the incumbent MP, Conservative Laura Sandys, is stepping down – thus the only guarantee is that it will have a new MP by May 8.

The Tories are fielding Craig Mackinlay – a clever choice.

Mr Mackinlay is a former leader of Ukip and a friend of Nigel Farage. He also ran against Ann Barnes in the race to be Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner.

He has called on Mr Farage to stand aside and allow Ukip voters to get behind him in the interests of the Eurosceptic cause.

"It is common sense because I have common ground with Ukip," Mr Mackinlay said.

"If you are a Tory Ukip voter it now seems to me an obvious choice that you would think I don't need to do that Ukip vote because I have a champion who thinks exactly as I do."

Mr Farage, who lives in Westerham, steadfastly refused to comment this week but had previously told KoS: "This makes not one bit of difference. We will be fighting Thanet South to win it and I have every belief we can do so."

Political commentator Iain Dale, who lives in Pembury and presents the drive-time show on radio station LBC, said the battle would be close.

"If Farage stands here he has to win," Mr Dale said.

"He's up against a former ally in Craig Mackinlay, who is not to be underestimated. Laura Sandys has been a very popular constituency MP and bequeathes him a good legacy.

"However, having suffered an ignominious defeat to the hapless Ann Barnes in the police commissioner election, he hasn't got a good track record of winning important elections.

"Labour held this seat during the Blair years and are on level terms with the Tories. Farage's performance depends on how much he can eat into the Labour vote."

VERDICT?

If Farage stands, it's his to lose

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« PAGE 11

GILLINGHAM & RAINHAM

Current MP: **Rehman Chishti**
Conservative
Majority: 8,680

UKIP chums past and present might be slugging it out against each other in Thanet South – but they've got nothing on the machinations of Medway's most hotly-contested seat.

Once upon a time, the seat was held by Labour MP Paul Clark – elected in 1997 and a party colleague of one Rehman Chishti, then a Labour councillor.

Mr Chishti even stood for the Labour Party in the 2005 General Election, losing to Francis Maude in Horsham – and as councillor for Gillingham North ward he would have been involved with Mr Clark's campaign, too.

So there was shock all round when he experienced a Damascene conversion the following year, defected to the Conservative Party and in 2010 stood for the Tories against his former mentor Mr Clark and defeated him.

One senior Labour figure in Medway described it as the "ultimate betrayal".

Now, in perhaps the most mouth-watering of clashes, the two go head to head again next year.

"Until 2005," explains Mr Clark, 57, "Rehman was talking about how Tony Blair was doing an excellent job – then suddenly it switched.

"I think many of my colleagues believed that it was for self-promotion – I clearly wasn't going to be standing down in 2010, so there was no chance of him being a Labour candidate here.

"The fact that he is still a councillor sends the wrong message about the roles of an MP and a councillor. Being an MP is a full-time job and I don't think you can do both."

Not, he said, that the campaign trail was uncomfortable last time around.

"During the campaign," Mr Clark says, "I didn't see him as anything other than a Conservative who was following policies which I thought would be bad for Gillingham and Rainham and for Kent.

"In a general election people are not voting for their local MP, they are voting for who they want to be running the country, and they clearly didn't want that to be Labour and Gordon Brown. When they elected me, I didn't think they were voting for me personally."

Mr Clark – who lives in Gillingham and has lived in the constituency all his life – says he believes he now has a good chance of snatching the seat back despite Mr Chisti's majority.

We tried on numerous attempts to contact Mr Chishti, but he was unavailable for comment.

Iain Dale said that, despite Mr Chishti's majority, Mr Clark had every chance of winning the seat back.

"If Labour is to form the next government they need to win back seats like Gillingham and Rainham, which they held throughout the Blair years," he said.

"Mr Chishti's majority is far larger than anyone predicted in 2010, but it is far from being a safe seat.

"Ukip will eat into his vote and Labour will hope to benefit from the crumbling Lib Dem support.

"Paul Clark was a popular and effective local MP, too, and will have retained a bit of a personal vote.

"This will be a very close fight and may come down to how the constituency has changed demographically."

VERDICT?
Labour could claw this one back

DOVER

Current MP: **Charlie Elphicke**
Conservative
Majority: 5,274

AMONG the uniformly true-blue territories of Kent, Dover is the closest thing the county has to a marginal seat.

Charlie Elphicke's majority would seem a pretty safe threshold – but the seat was Labour until 1997 and has oscillated between the two parties in decades gone by.

It is seen as an excellent barometer of national opinion and it is said that whoever wins in Dover is likely to win the election overall – so all eyes will be on the constituency over the next nine months.

Dover is also one of the two Kent seats that Labour have said they will target strongly, with the other being Chatham and Aylesford, the seat currently held by Tracy Crouch.

The situation is compounded by the growing popularity of Ukip in an area that naturally welcomes a high number of immigrants – the party polled almost 40 per cent of the vote in the European elections in May.

Mr Elphicke told KoS: "It is going to be a very close battle.

"I am not complacent. I am going to do my best and will be working tirelessly for every vote, but I am not taking victory for granted – I never do."

The interest [for observers] or the worry [for the Conservatives] comes from the fact that, as Mr Elphicke admits, "it's not clear who the opposition is".

"Labour are bleeding support locally to Ukip, who have had a surge at the expense of Labour and the Lib Dems," he said, side-stepping the fact that it will surely bite the biggest chunk out of his Tory vote.

"As for Nigel Farage, I don't know where he will stand, but I think he needs to get on with it and make a decision, otherwise people just won't take him seriously."

Labour candidate Clair Hawkins, a Dover native who now lives in Deal, is a newcomer to the district's political scene but has been a councillor in east London.

The 37-year-old said she could definitely win back the seat that popular MP Gwyn Prosser held throughout Labour's 13-year term.

"It's not going to be an easy seat to win back, but I think people are realising that we need something different from what this government has delivered," she said.

Mr Dale said that both candidates had their strengths – but that the result might not be determined by either of them.

"This is another seat Labour need to win back if they are to form a government – and Dover's result may well depend on how Ukip perform and where they take their support from," he said.

"Mr Elphicke has emulated Mr Prosser and maintained a high profile both nationally and locally. His fight to protect Dover's Trust Port status was successful and he has been outspoken on immigration."

VERDICT?
Tories to cling on by their fingernails

SHEPWAY

Current MP: **Damian Collins**
Conservative
Majority: 10,122

SINCE Sir Harry Mackeson won a 9,882 majority in the newly-created constituency of Folkestone and Hythe in 1950, the seat has been a safe Tory stronghold.

But support for Ukip is becoming increasingly high here. At the county council elections last year, the party won four of the six seats and the constituency has been tipped as a possible choice for Nigel Farage if he doesn't go for Thanet South.

If he does stand in Thanet, there are rumours that the Shepway candidate will be south east Euro MP Janice Atkinson.

"We will go out and campaign hard for every vote and never take it for granted," Conservative MP Damian Collins told KoS.

"I am not going to get particularly distracted by what the other parties

will do. In the county council elections, more people voted Conservative in Folkestone and Hythe than for any other party.

"Those elections were fought two years ago and the big thing that is changing all the time is the economic recovery."

The Conservatives polled 1,293 more votes than Ukip across the constituency during the county council elections as a whole.

Liberal Democrat candidate Lynne Beaumont lost to Mr Collins in 2010 but polled almost 16,000 votes – and she sounded optimistic about her renewed candidacy this time.

"Historically, the smaller party always gets totally trounced in a coalition," Ms Beaumont said.

"But what we have done is beyond amazing. We took on the biggest recession since the Second World War and we stopped the crash – and have completely transformed it.

"We now have more people in employment than ever before.

"We had to give up some things that we absolutely believed in, but so did the Tories. I think they are probably more unhappy than we are."

Ms Beaumont added: "Nigel Farage really doesn't care, he's just going to stand where he thinks he has a chance. I think if he wants to show people he has got balls, he should stand in Thanet South – although if he is against Craig Mackinlay it's going to become a Ukip battle."

However, Mr Dale said Mr Collins would not only hold on to his seat but might enjoy an increased majority.

"The Lib Dems always imagine they will win this seat but never do, or even come close," he said.

"Mr Collins is set to stay MP for Folkestone as long as he doesn't blot his copybook. The Lib Dems look set to implode nationally and if they do so here, too, his majority could increase by a massive margin."

VERDICT?
Tories to keep Shepway true blue

■ What do you think? Share your views and join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

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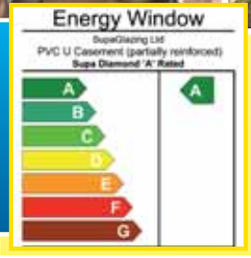

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Will ferry firm finally take to the seas?

Euroferries Ltd is back... and this time not only is it launching a new ferry service from Ramsgate to Boulogne, it is also sponsoring Millwall FC to help promote its new coach service to London, but, asks Jamie Weir, haven't we been here before?

HEARD the one about the high-speed ferry service without any boats?

Well, it may sound like a joke, but one firm continues to suggest otherwise, by maintaining it will launch a service linking Ramsgate to Boulogne, on the French coast, later this year and promising a crossing time of just 75 minutes.

Not everyone, however, is as convinced.

Euroferries Ltd, the company behind the proposed passenger service, says although the service will start in the next few months, it is currently unwilling to provide any solid details about it.

If the name Euroferries is familiar, it could be because it has had a number of aborted attempts to start a ferry service from Kent over the years.

It first dipped its toe into our coastal waters in 2006 with a proposal for a service between Dover and Calais.

Despite plenty of promises, nothing emerged.

Then it went public with plans to, instead, operate between Ramsgate and Boulogne.

Again, it spoke of fast services and whipped up interest only for nothing to emerge.

Now, in 2014, it is clearly looking to make a splash again – confirming this week to KoS it still plans to launch a high-speed crossing while also creating headlines by agreeing a six-figure sponsorship with Championship football club Millwall.

The sponsor deal – which will see the firm's name on club shirts – is designed to promote a new coach service, linking Ramsgate to London, via Canterbury, Whitstable and Medway.

So far, however, no service is in operation. It had originally claimed the service would launch last summer to link in with the Ramsgate ferry service. A website for that also now promises a 2014 launch.

Club officials at Millwall refused to comment on the deal when contacted. The new season kicks-off in two weeks.

So just who is behind Euroferries and just exactly what, given the recent history, can we expect to see become a reality?

The truth is a little hard to come by.

A spokesperson for the company – who works for a Sussex-based PR firm – would not elaborate on its plans. Simply telling KoS: "At the moment, there are very few details I can give you. What I can tell you is that we will be launching the new ferry service before the end of 2014."

One of the company's directors is Adrian Gillan, who has the company registered to an address in West Wickham, near Bromley.

Despite repeated attempts to contact him, he evaded our calls.

Adds the spokesman: "They are elusive, but I work with them all, the web guys, the directors, so I never have trouble getting hold of them.

"They don't want to speak to all and sundry as they're busy, out getting coaches, out getting ferries and doing the real work.

Picture: AUSTAL

FERRY NICE: The sort of ferry Euroferries want to run and (above right), Ramsgate hopes for the best

"When this ferry and coach service gets going, they are going to be absolutely massive. But the only way we will convince people is when they see the ferry.

"They won't listen until then. There's a great webcam at Ramsgate port, so people can use that to watch when the ferry comes in, which will be in the last quarter of this year.

"People can go and watch it, it's going to be on the TV, and we'll have it in the papers, everyone will be there when this launches, it'll be huge.

"The directors are all out at the moment, looking for a vessel we can use for the launch. Until its all finalised the directors aren't going to be able to talk to anyone."

But they do put out big statements, which is what draws such attention to them.

Should Millwall fans, for example, be anxious if the deal signed will actually bear fruit?

"The coach service hasn't launched," the spokesman admitted, "but it will be launching really soon.

"We already have the coaches. We've just got things like the timetables to get sorted out and finalised. This is going to be a huge new service and we're really looking forward to the partnership we have with Millwall."

As ever, with Euroferries, the best advice may be to believe it, when you see it.

Thanet District Council is aware of the plans for Ramsgate and has held a series of discussions with the firm about it.

Mike Harrison, a Labour councillor, and the Thanet council cabinet member with responsibility for the port, said: "Discussions have been ongoing with Euroferries although currently nothing has been finalised with them about when they might start operating."

The company has also said that, currently, its directors are busy working hard to secure a new boat to help launch the service. Euroferries is in discussion with the boatbuilder, Austal, which is based in Australia.

But getting a vessel has proved problematic in the past. During its last attempted foray into the ferry market from Ramsgate, Euroferries announced it had secured a newly built, state of the art trimaran boat – a boat with three hull segments, designed for speed and stability – from Austal. Delivery, it said, was a matter of only months away.

Yet the boat never arrived, and when KoS spoke to Austal, its UK spokesman told us: "Euroferries have had discussions with us, but it's at an extremely early stage right now. Nothing has been ordered with us yet."

One shipping industry expert told us more bluntly: "Euroferries talk a good game, but no one in the industry has ever seen a penny from them. They have never bought anything, they just seem

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to talk about it, doing nothing but holding endless discussions with ports and shipmakers. If they want to be taken seriously, they need to actually walk the walk too."

And it isn't just the industry which has grown to be cynical about the ferry company.

Cllr Harrison is circumspect about whether this time, Euroferries really will start operating.

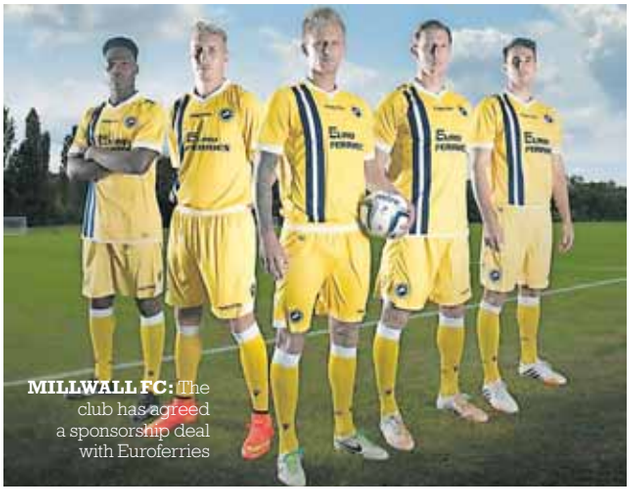
Despite this lack of confidence, Euroferries is bullish about its first boat setting sail from Ramsgate port. The spokesman adding: "The problems we got into last time we tried to launch the service, we aren't going to get into this time. This time it's going to happen and the people who don't believe us – watch this space."

Certainly it has created lively discussion on internet forums with little information to glean amid the big promises being made.

The Euroferries spokesman added: "You can still see nonsense about Euroferries on the internet and it doesn't matter what we say, people will still be cynical about the company and say it's not going to happen. Last time, Euroferries just couldn't get the vessel. It isn't an easy thing to buy a ship, and last time it fell through at the last moment.

"But in reality, last time's plan never actually went away. It just ended up taking longer to come to fruition because of the problems we had. This time it will launch and Euroferries is going to get it all right."

The issue is particularly sensitive in Thanet, where the promise of jobs and a longed-for revival in the fortunes of the port are always craved.



MILLWALL FC: The club has agreed a sponsorship deal with Euroferries

Jane Wenham-Jones, an author and local resident who remembered how hopeful she was the first time around, said: "Let us just say that while I would be thrilled to see a passenger ferry service running between Ramsgate and Boulogne and would love to be on the very first sailing out of here, I am not holding my breath.

"Last time, it went on and on and on with endless promises that never came to anything, so I am sceptical. I'd be happy to be wrong though."

The chairman of the Ramsgate Business Community Association – which promotes the area as open for business – says it would welcome any new operator at the port.

> **"I'm one of life's optimists, so even though they have failed to deliver before, they may manage it this time. If it comes off, then great. If it doesn't, then it's just another company we've spoken to which hasn't worked out."**
>
> **Cllr Mike Harrison,**
> On the Euroferries proposal

Brian Unwin said: "A new ferry would add to the town. It would bring footfall to the area, and help businesses, which is what we need in Thanet.

"When Transeuropa went into administration it was a real loss to the area. Fewer tourists were coming to Thanet and we had less connectivity with the rest of Europe which meant we lost business as a result. We also had the added blow of losing millions of pounds which the council had used to prop the ailing ferry company up."

Nicky Gardner, editor of Hidden Europe magazine, and an expert in European ferry travel, told KoS that ferry services between Kent and Europe are weak, and more links were needed.

She said: "There's a real need for cross-Channel ferry links, both for Kent and for Britain's wider economy, so I would be pleased to see it happen. But we have seen Euroferries repeatedly fail to deliver, so I'm doubtful they will get this route together.

"They are, as a company, quite hilarious to deal with. As a travel writer, I have spoken with them in the past, and they've been immensely unhelpful and its directors are incredible difficult to get hold of. Based on past form, I'd be deeply sceptical about the company, and I would counsel great caution for anyone thinking of buying a ticket. Make sure they actually have a ferry first."

In September 2013, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) upheld a complaint against Euroferries for misrepresenting its service by stating that it was operating and taking bookings, when in fact it had never set sail. According to the ASA judgement, it was unable to ever get in touch with the company.

Concludes Thanet council's Mike Harrison: "I'm one of life's optimists, so even though they have failed to deliver before, they may manage it this time. If it comes off, then great. If it doesn't, then it's just another company we've spoken to which hasn't worked out."

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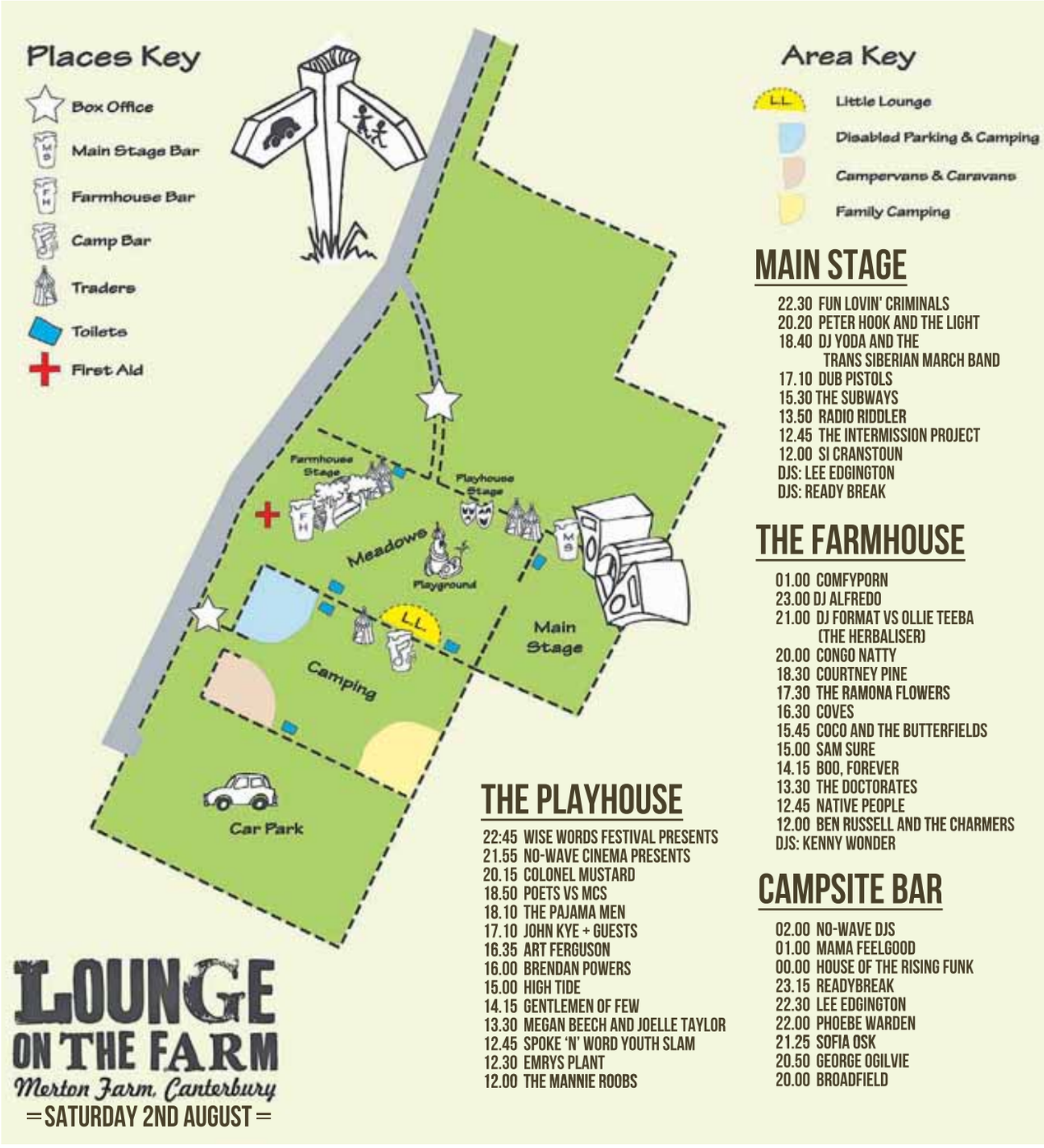

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17.10 DUB PISTOLS
15.30 THE SUBWAYS
13.50 RADIO RIDDLER
12.45 THE INTERMISSION PROJECT
12.00 SI CRANSTOUN
DJS: LEE EDGINGTON
DJS: READY BREAK

THE FARMHOUSE

01.00 COMFYPORN
23.00 DJ ALFREDO
21.00 DJ FORMAT VS OLLIE TEEBA (THE HERBALISER)
20.00 CONGO NATTY
18.30 COURTNEY PINE
17.30 THE RAMONA FLOWERS
16.30 COVES
15.45 COCO AND THE BUTTERFIELDS
15.00 SAM SURE
14.15 BOO, FOREVER
13.30 THE DOCTORATES
12.45 NATIVE PEOPLE
12.00 BEN RUSSELL AND THE CHARMERS
DJS: KENNY WONDER

THE PLAYHOUSE

22:45 WISE WORDS FESTIVAL PRESENTS
21.55 NO-WAVE CINEMA PRESENTS
20.15 COLONEL MUSTARD
18.50 POETS VS MCS
18.10 THE PAJAMA MEN
17.10 JOHN KYE + GUESTS
16.35 ART FERGUSON
16.00 BRENDAN POWERS
15.00 HIGH TIDE
14.15 GENTLEMEN OF FEW
13.30 MEGAN BEECH AND JOELLE TAYLOR
12.45 SPOKE 'N' WORD YOUTH SLAM
12.30 EMRYS PLANT
12.00 THE MANNIE ROOBS

CAMPSITE BAR

02.00 NO-WAVE DJS
01.00 MAMA FEELGOOD
00.00 HOUSE OF THE RISING FUNK
23.15 READYBREAK
22.30 LEE EDGINGTON
22.00 PHOEBE WARDEN
21.25 SOFIA OSK
20.50 GEORGE OGILVIE
20.00 BROADFIELD

ONE of the highlights of the county's music calendar takes place next weekend as Lounge on the Farm returns for another extravaganza of music, comedy, food and drink.

This year's event takes on a different look to normal. After nine years at Merton Farm, this year's event will be the last at the location.

But it will return - and back to its regular three-day-long duration - in a new home next year.

For now, though, the focus is on ensuring next Saturday's one-day only farewell to the farm is one to remember.

The main headline acts include New Order's Peter Hook and the Fun Lovin' Criminals.

Capacity at this year's event had been reduced to 2,500, but an additional 1,000 tickets were put up for grabs earlier this month to meet demand.

Organiser Sean Baker explained: "We have got a little less space, but I don't those attending will really notice it.

"Next year we'll be back with a bang and back to a full three-days."

To help those attending, we've teamed up with the festival organisers to produced a map of the site and the full rundown on stage times on all the stages at the event.

Previous years have seen a host of big names performing.

Over the last three years, headliners have included Ellie Goulding, Nile Rodgers and Chic, Soul II Soul and Seasick Steve.

Lounge on the Farm takes place on August 2. For ticket details, see: www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk

Who's who in the soaring saga of Manston Airport?

The Thanet airport may have closed but the fight to save it continues. Maria Chiorando looks at Manston's past and at the key players in its potential future...

IT IS the saga which seems destined to continue throughout the summer – just what is to happen with the site of Manston Airport?

While it may appear to be a debate confined only to the east of the county, the ramifications of the final outcome will have an impact on the county as a whole.

After all, as one of few airport sites in the county, it has long been touted as a key cog in reviving Thanet – one of the county's most deprived areas, where unemployment rates are high.

Make it a success, and it would ease some of the additional funding which is regularly ploughed into the area on both a county and national level by layers of government.

So just what it the latest situation, and who have emerged as the key players over the future of the site?

THE STORY SO FAR...

Once just farmland, work began on constructing a makeshift airfield on the site back during the First World War and it swiftly became a key military facility.

Heavily bombed during the Second World War – where it was also used a base for Barnes Wallis' famous 'bouncing bomb' tests at Reculver, which would ultimately lead to the raids on German dams which would be immortalised in the film Dambusters – it went on to be used by the US as a base during the Cold War of the 1950s.

It remained a Ministry of Defence (MoD) site until 1989 when it moved into private ownership.

Since then, repeated efforts and owners have attempted to construct a thriving industry. Passenger and freight services have come and gone, and its use and possible expansion a regular topic of local debate.

After some 18 months seeking a new buyer, the New Zealand firm Infratil finally sold the airport to businesswoman Ann Gloag for the token sum of £1 and around £300,000 in debts in November 2013.

It had been hoped she would strike deals with Ryanair and BA which would revive its fortunes. Both fell through and she took the decision to close the airport. Its doors closed in May. Around 150 staff lost their jobs.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS...

This week there appeared to be fresh hopes it could still be saved by investors keen to re-open it.

As Thanet District Council (TDC) continues to examine the strengths and weaknesses of serving a compulsory purchase order (CPO) on the site, so talks continue in tandem with US investment RiverOak about assuming control should a deal be struck.

The issue of public funds being used on the airport – in any capacity – is a highly sensitive one however. It is thought the conditions would ensure RiverOak picking up all the costs involved.

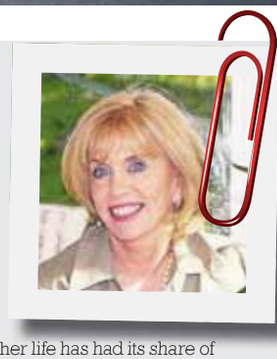
Earlier in the week, a petition was handed in to Number 10 Downing Street calling for steps to be take to save the airport.

Meanwhile, rumours and counter-rumours continue to circulate on a daily basis, most prominent of all the on-going fears the site will simply be turned into housing.

PAGE 20 »

NAME:
Ann Gloag

POSITION:
Current owner of Manston Airport



AT the centre of the saga is airport owner and business magnate Ann Gloag.

Yet the elusive Scot is about as shy of the limelight as she is of publicly giving any hint as to her thinking on the future of Manston.

Since she bought the site – officially taking ownership on November 29, 2013 – her office appears to be under orders to protect her at all costs.

She has never spoken publicly about Manston, only issuing some comments via her spokeswoman at the time of the purchase.

Her reputation, however, will never be the same again in Kent.

The winner of several humanitarian awards, it's difficult to argue against her charity work, but despite this, she is considered by many to be the villain of this piece.

And it's easy to see how the enigmatic tycoon has created enemies. With an apparently ruthless nature, it seems as though nothing will stand between her and her ambition. Sentiment, it would seem, plays little part in her thought process.

Born in Scotland in 1942, she originally worked as a nurse for 20 years, until setting up a bus travel company, with her brother and then husband. Stagecoach would go on to be one of the travel industry's great success stories.

When her marriage broke down, her husband sold back his share in the company, and set up his own company, offering certain routes. Gloag launched a rival service on the routes, waging a price war and eventually forcing her former husband out of business by offering free rides on her routes.

When Stagecoach floated on the stock exchange in 1993, it was valued at £134 million, making a millionairess out of the former nurse, who is now the owner of two Scottish castles.

Despite her immense wealth, her life has had its share of tragedy. In 1999, her son Jonathan was found dead in woodland in Perthshire, believed to have taken his own life. He was just 28.

Her ex-husband died in a car crash in 2007.

Ms Gloag is now in her 70s, and seems as determined as ever to expand her business empire.

Optimism surrounded Mrs Gloag's purchase of Manston, with hopes that perhaps this formidable character could be the one to make a success of the business.

As the airfield is stripped, and every asset, fitting and fixture auctioned off, it seems as though she may be the one to finally force it in to the grave.

NAME:
Iris Johnston

POSITION:
Labour leader of Thanet District Council

IRIS Johnston is the Labour leader of Thanet District Council – a local authority which swings by the smallest margin between Conservatives and Labour.

She replaced former leader Clive Hart who stepped down in May.

Her ascent to the leadership coincided with the week Manston closed its doors.

Thrust straight into the debate she has been a vocal supporter of the airport.

She explained: "Having an airport is essential to the footprint of Thanet."

She's also walking a very delicate political line. Should she commit any public money to saving a so-far commercially unviable airport she risks political outrage from opponents, should it not become a success.

If she does not give the nod to a CPO, she faces being labelled the woman who gave up on Manston.

An independent financial viability report has been commissioned on the site, the results of which are being kept a closely guarded secret.

Cllr Johnston hinted, however: "The majority of the report is not as negative as people think.

"My first reading of it suggests that it sees a future for Manston."

There have been talks between Ms Gloag and Cllr Johnston on several occasions, very little about which is known, as the airport owner insists on confidentiality.

At a public meeting on July 19, Cllr Johnston did reveal that the most recent meeting they had had, on July 4, had been "disappointing".

NAME:
Tony Freudmann

POSITION:
Spokesman for US investment firm RiverOak

IT IS just possible, Tony Freudmann could become the most significant figure in this whole saga. And if you recognise his name, well, he'd been linked with Manston for many years.

For now, though, he is simply seen as 'spokesman' for US investment firm RiverOak.

RiverOak Investment Corporation, based in Connecticut, has interests in real estate as well as a finger in the aviation pie.

It runs a cargo hub in Texas, a project not unlike Manston Airport could be, if used as a freight airport.

It has also stated an interest in European investment, and to this end, made three unsuccessful bids for Manston. The last apparently being for £7m – the asking price – just hours before the airport shut.

While those directly involved in the CPO bid have enthusiastically backed his expertise, some have questioned his suitability to play an active role as Manston moves forward, due to his previous involvement with the airport.

He was previously a director with Wiggins Group plc, which bought the site from the Ministry of Defence in March 1989.

He explained to KoS: "I was responsible for overseeing the process of turning the military base into a commercial airport.

"The next major development came in 2005, when PJ McGoldrick wanted the airport company to invest in his airline, EU Jet [a low cost airline based in Shannon].

"Some board members decided to go for it, but some of us had reservations, as Manston was starting to develop as a cargo hub. However, they did invest, and those of my team who did not support the investment were offered a very generous severance package and left.

"I had some contact with Infratil over the years, but it never came to anything. I have had some contact with Ann Gloag and other previous investors but what passed between us is confidential."

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NAME:
Keith Churcher

POSITION:
Spokesman for Save Manston Airport (SMA)

THE spokesman for the Save Manston Airport (SMA) group joined the campaign after a lifelong interest in planes.

While working on another project, involving the housing of Concorde, he researched Manston, which, he claims, would have been an ideal place.

"When I started to make enquiries, I found out it was closing.

"It had always been an airport that was close to my heart, so I started the petition, got in touch with group founder, Dan Light, and said I'd like to help out with the cause."

The problem he claims has been "bad management".

He told KoS: "Someone needs to take over Manston, and run it properly.

"What a lot of people don't realise is that Manston is a slow burner, money-wise.

"It's not going to make a huge amount of money in the second or third year.

"It's about proper management, and increasing the facility as we go."

The campaign has continued to gather momentum; several hundred people attended the last public meeting on July 19, but the high point was a march held earlier in July, which was attended by 1,200 people.

The fear among the pro-Manston lobby is that the land will be developed as housing. They believe that is how Mrs Gloag will reap the most profit from the site.

The group are keen supporters of the CPO proposal, with Mr Churcher claiming it is the only way the site will stay as an airfield.

He said: "RiverOak are not the only investors on the table. They do seem like a good fit, and certainly appear to be committed.

"But until money has changed hands, then it's still open for a second, third, even fourth investor to step up.

"RiverOak are the only ones who have made their interest public."

NAME:
Paul Carter

POSITION:
Leader Kent County Council

PAUL Carter has been the Conservative leader of Kent County Council since October 2005 and a man only too aware of the political sensitivities around Manston.

Certainly there is no denying the county council has not been supportive of the airport in the past. But having seen public funds consumed in previous failures, and the purse strings tighter than ever, its support going forward may be more vocal than financial.

The pro-Manston contingent claim his view recently has been inconsistent – an allegation he strongly denies.

Following a council meeting on July 17, in which he maintained that KCC will support TDC should it be deemed the right thing to do, he insists he has kept that position.

He told KoS: "I have always been very consistent, but we at Kent County Council will do all we can to support the best solution that delivers the best outcome in terms of job opportunities for east Kent.

"I have never wavered from that standpoint. We will help any proposition that offers jobs, as an airport or anything else."

He says KCC will support the CPO bid, should the results of the independent financial viability report be promising.

There is another caveat.

He explains: "Thanet District Council must also ask for expressions of interest."

In short, he would appear to need a little convincing that RiverOak is the solution to all the airport's woes.

"I met with RiverOak," he says. "It wasn't a great meeting. They were not forthcoming in their business proposal, they did not have a credible business plan, or present any evidence to suggest all the finance is in place."

So would KCC dig into its pockets again?

"Let's see what the study says," he says.

"We don't want another owner who doesn't have the muscle for success, we don't want to end up where we started.

"My track record in supporting east Kent has been second to none, and KCC's door is open to receive any exciting proposition."

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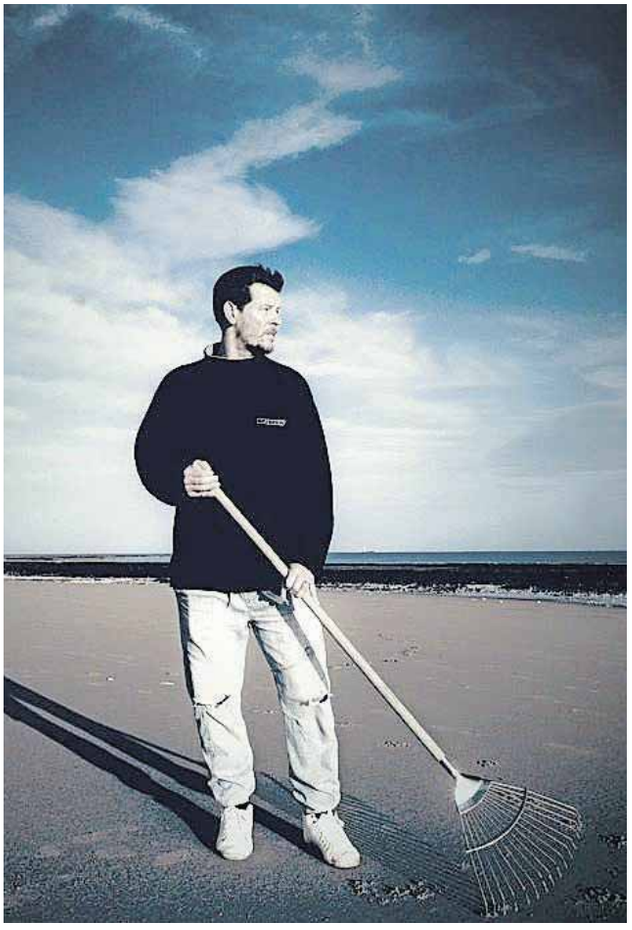

TIME AND TIDE: Broadstairs's Ross Andrews gets ready to create new art

Artist hopes to rake it in with business idea

Sand art offers commercial possibilites for Thanet man, writes **Chris Murphy**

IT IS often difficult to think how the natural beauty of some of our beaches can be bettered.

But one artist has hatched upon a way which injects a remarkable new twist on some our coastal landscapes.

By engraving designs onto the wet sands, he has been able to create some astonishing designs.

And now Ross Andrews has developed a way to capitalise on his talents – by offering major brands the opportunity to be in on the picture... at least until the tide comes in.

Not that the business side was his original motive.

He said: "I saw a drawing in the sands being done on a Bollywood movie I was working on a couple of

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years ago here in Kent and knew I could do that. I did it for fun at first but realised there may be people who would commission some of my work."

Companies wanting an iconic image of their logo splashed across large areas of beach now have somewhere to go.

And Mr Andrews, who also runs a beach café and film production company, is the go-to man for all kinds of beach art.

The 41-year-old from Broadstairs said: "I have always been pretty artistic. I grew up on the Kent coast and absolutely love it here.

"The sand on our beaches is ideal for this sort of work, but I have to be careful of tide times. The last thing I need is for it to all be washed away before the photography is finished. But sometimes that is exactly what I am after. It adds to the drama of the work – the sea just starting to lap against the design.

"I love the fact it all disappears almost immediately. I love that race against time and the tide.

"People are wonderful and they always walk around when I am working – some of the designs are pretty huge, but they respect what I am doing."

He started up Sand Attraction to promote his artwork.

He said: "I love working with sand – it is so pliable and the Kent sands are just perfect for what I do with it.

"I need it to hold just the right amount of moisture and temperature for it to hold its shape."

Advertisers and travel magazines have hired him so far, along with some companies keen to make a splash.

Mr Andrews said: "I am also approached by families to create something novel for portrait backgrounds.

"Using the designs as backgrounds for weddings is also popular. It is just something a little different than some of the more usual pictures you have of a bride and groom."

He added: "I did one at Botany Bay in Broadstairs to promote Thanet's amazing coastline with seven Blue Flag beaches. It read #loveourbeaches to promote the Twitter tag.

"Other areas I used a lot include Margate and Ramsgate."

■ To see more of Ross Andrews's work, visit www.sandattraction.co.uk.

SHIFTING CANVAS: Ross creates huge artworks on Thanet's beaches

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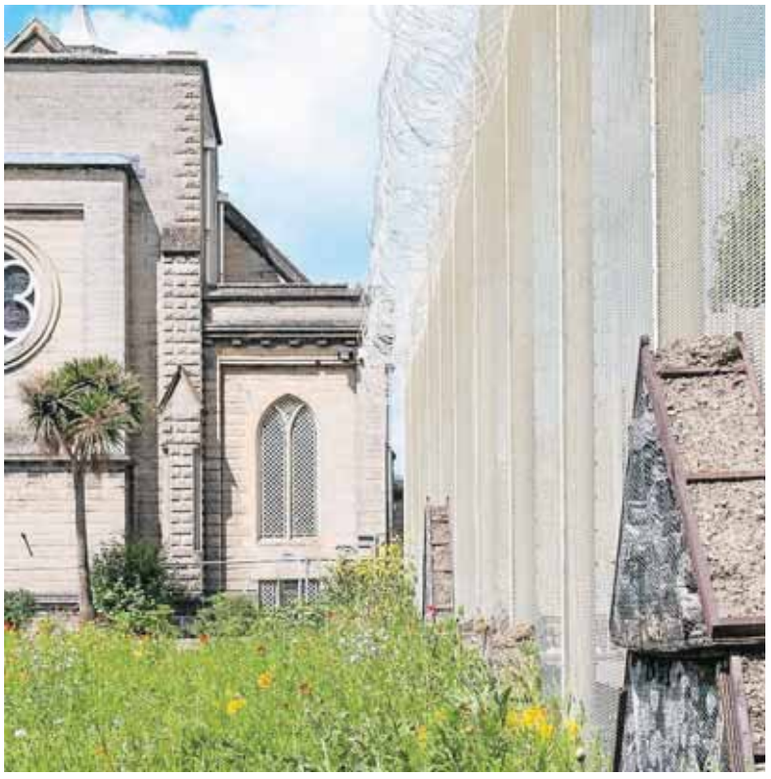
Prison garden offers sanctuary for

Pictures: DAVID SEARGEANT



JUST ROSY: Low-risk prisoners are selected to work in the gardens at Maidstone Prison; a very privileged position for the 18 or so inmates chosen

ANYONE walking past the large, imposing ragstone walls surrounding Maidstone Prison would be forgiven for being oblivious to the important environmental work going on behind them.

As well as housing some 600 Category C prisoners, many of whom are foreign nationals, staff at the 14-acre town centre prison are involved in a project to create a haven for wildlife.

From just inside the main gates of the prison, which opened in 1819, staff and visitors are welcomed by enormous trailing hanging baskets, which, as well as adding colour to the otherwise ominous surroundings, are also there to attract many species of insect.

Beyond this is an allotment area – consisting of several raised beds made from recycled timber – where prisoners on the gardening team can grow vegetables from seed.

Next is the biodiversity garden, which they call the Gateway. It's an area divided into smaller plots, all planted specifically to attract different species of wildlife from bees and butterflies, to moths and birds.

But the section the prison's community engagement manager Martin Dacey is most excited about is the bumblebee garden.

Carefully planned out to replicate an authentic English country garden, the planting scheme provides a variety of nectar-rich plants and flowers specifically to attract some of the country's 25 different species of bumblebee, one of the most endangered garden insects, throughout the season.

"Early spring plants such as comfrey, mahonia and lungwort provide food for the queen bumblebees coming out of hibernation," said

wildlife and an escape for inmates

For the past few years one Kent prison has been doing sterling work in saving our insects while helping prisoners in the process, as **Caroline Read** reports.

Mr Dacey. "And in early summer we have aquilegia, borage, geraniums, poppies – all for the worker bees feeding the nest.

"Later on in the summer we'll have things like buddleia, cornflowers, foxgloves and lavender to allow the new queens to feed up before hibernation."

Mr Dacey started out at the facility as a prison officer. Helping to plan a wildlife garden is far from what he expected to be doing as part of his role 23 years later, but he is certain it is not only good for conservation but as an an enriching activity for the prisoners to be involved with, which, in some cases can help to rehabilitate and prevent reoffending.

"We're a working prison so all prisoners have to work here," he explains.

"To be allowed on the gardens party you have to assessed as quite low risk, as it's a privileged position. We have a group of about 18 prisoners who are working at any one time.

"They go out and enjoy the fresh air but they're also learning important skills for life; learning how to grow plants from seed, prepare the soil, use tools, make bird boxes and so on."

During the winter months, when there is less to do in the gardens, the prisoners receive some formal training in horticulture.

There are several qualifications available to them and some may even wish to pursue gardening as a career.

"It's all very well saying lock them up and throw away the key," says Mr Dacey, "but we want to do something positive with them while they're here. I've seen it myself; reoffending is a revolving door and if you can equip someone with some new skills, the chances are he can go out and be able to support himself. It's a contentious issue, but I've seen prisoners put themselves on the straight and narrow."

Teaching horticulture and supplying organised allotments for prisoners is one thing but the inclusion of a wildlife garden is something forward thinking for the establishment.

In 2009, the kitchen was rebuilt on a new site and staff were required to leave the land where it once stood, as well as an old prisoner exercise yard alongside it, to go to seed for 12 months.

"In May 2011 we developed it into the wildlife garden," Mr Dacey adds. "We have old logs, bug hotels, all sorts of little habitats to encourage bees, hoverflies, moths and butterflies.

"We recognise bees especially are under threat and as a consequence of our work here they're absolutely thriving.

"I never thought I'd see myself getting so excited about bumblebees," said Mr Dacey.

As well as using the Gateway garden to teach the prisoners about biodiversity and the value of encouraging certain birds and insects into the gardens, it's also working out very well for wildlife. It's rare enough to have a refuge in a town centre, let alone one inside prison gates.

The work at the prison, and in particular the input that horticultural instructor Justin Scott has had in the creation of the environmental garden, has been rewarded with the facility winning the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) wildlife award outright in both 2011 and 2012, as well as the best closed prison award for 2013.

Staff have been working alongside Kent Wildlife Trust for some time and set up many of the insect hotels and habitats in the garden upon their advice.

But in the last year they have also developed a close relationship with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BCT), which was recently responsible for the release of a third batch of the incredibly rare short-haired bumblebees in Dungeness.

The BCT has advised about planting in the Gateway garden and is excited to have partners like the prison on their side.

A spokesman for the BCT said: "While Maidstone is some distance from Dungeness [where there is a re-introduction project], it is hoped that if others follow the prison's example, the short-haired bumblebee and other rare species will have a corridor of flowers to follow when looking for food, allowing them to build new populations further afield."

Mr Dacey has been using the BCT's website to identify bees in the gardens for some time.

"I'd been looking at their website for a couple of years so it's great to be working with them now," said Mr Dacey. "We have spotted all sorts of bees including red-tailed, buff-tailed and white-tailed bumblebees but nothing rare just yet."

‘Mother of the modern cookbook’ who inspired Mrs Beaton receives plaque

MISTRESS CHEF: Tonbridge’s Eliza Acton and her recipe and cookery book set the bar for all cookery books that followed. Her plaque is shown (inset)

Poet-turned recipe writer Eliza Acton’s 636-page work is the blueprint for all cookery books... and she knew Charles Dickens. **Chris Murphy** finds out more about her...

NEXT time you’re pondering what culinary treat to whip up to impress family and friends, the chances are you’ll owe a debt of gratitude to Eliza Acton.

Because it was she who is dubbed ‘the mother of the modern day cookbook’ – compiling the first list of recipes and instructions aimed at the enthusiast rather than the professional cook or hired hand.

It was she who inspired the famous Mrs Beaton and whose skills would eventually inspire the likes of Delia Smith, who described her as “the best writer of recipes in the English language”.

She was even friends with Charles Dickens.

But while her name may have been forgotten over the years, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is determined her memory lives on.

And this week it unveiled a special blue plaque outside the house she once lived.

Born in 1799 in Battle, in East Sussex, she would go on to live at The Priory in Bordyke, Tonbridge.

A poet, at heart, her first collection had been published in 1826 – focusing on the theme of unrequited love.

But it was her work Modern Cookery for Private Families which would establish her as one of the most influential figures of the 19th century.

First published in 1845, it compiled a list of recipes contributed by her friends.

Unlike other books at the time, it established the template for future recipes, listing the exact ingredients for each dish, the time needed and problems that may arise.

It was this precision which meant it was such a resounding success.

When she passed away in 1859, aged just 59, after a life which was dogged by ill health, her book lived on. Remarkably, it remained in print some 75 years after her death.

The famous Mrs Beaton’s Book of Household Management was based on it, while many of her recipes are still in use today.

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Who else has been honoured with blue plaque recognition?

THE Tonbridge and Malling area is a hotbed of famous and worthy characters from history.

The blue plaque system is widely recognised as a quick, cheap and yet poignant way of showing the world where these people, who made a difference, once came from.

As well as the plaque for Eliza Acton, there are five more plaques in Tonbridge to commemorate the lives of those that in some way made history.

More could go up in the future, but the council said there are no plans as yet.

Dotted around the town are plaques for EM Forster who lived at 38 Dry Hill Park Road, which is now Hilden Oaks School and Nursery.

He attended Tonbridge School and later wrote A Passage to India, Howard's End, and Where Angels Fear to Tread.

Colin Blythe who lived at 29 Goldsmid Road, Tonbridge, was a cricketer killed at the Battle of Passchendaele in the First World War. He is also commemorated by a monument in the parish church.

Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge lived at Ferox Hall in the High Street and attended Tonbridge School. He went on to become Kent and England cricket captain in the 1960s.

Neville Duke lived at 82 Hadlow Road and attended the Judd School. He was a Second World War fighter pilot and a noted test pilot in the post-war period, who was born in Tonbridge. He set the world air speed record in 1953.

And finally, Admiral Lord Lewin of Greenwich, from 3 Quarry Gardens, attended Judd School. Terence Lewin, who was also born in the town, was First Sea Lord and Chief of the Defence Staff during the Falklands War.

As well as helping people understand how to cook, she also included safety tips, like understanding how to recognise the freshness of meat and fish, warning "many of them are also dangerous eating when they are out of season".

She advised: "The eyes should always be bright, and the gills of fine clear red, the body stiff, the flesh firm, yet elastic to the touch".

The 636-page book was also the first to contain a recipe for Brussels sprouts and was reprinted recently by publisher Quadrille.

It was certainly not cheap. Back in the day it retailed for the equivalent of around £100 in today's money.

With additional impressive skills as a poet, the author was able to make things sound easy, considering her advice was new back then.

For example, on gathering and using eggs for an omelette, she writes: "Let them be very fresh; break them singly and carefully".

The world almost missed out. Her publisher, Longman, loved her first work of poetry in 1826, but rejected a second volume a decade later when she was 37.

With the advice to do something more practical ringing in her ears, she decided to use her years of experimenting at the stove to come up with her defining moment.

Mingled in with the wording, Miss Acton could not help herself but to comment personally on some of the dishes, but restrained herself to a few words inside brackets.

These included 'Lemon Dumplings (Light and Good)'. Or, 'Mushrooms Au Beurre (Delicious)'.

The spinster also remembered where she lived with her mother and servants and immortalised the town along the way.

There are recipes like Bordyke Veal Cake, Tonbridge Cake and Tonbridge Ginger Wine.

At the age of 18, the ambitious Miss Acton and a pal opened their own boarding school in Ipswich, where she worked for four years.

It was trips to France that sparked her love of cooking. There were rumours of a child by a French officer.

She was in touch with another famous Kent writer, Charles Dickens and sent him a copy of her book, and drew his attention to Ruth Pinch's Beefsteak Puddings, a nod to the character Ruth in Dickens' Martin Chuzzelwit.

He wrote back, saying: "I beg to thank you cordially for your very satisfying and welcome note."

After moving to Hampstead, London, to produce the less well known The English Bread Book in 1857, she died two years later. She was buried in Hampstead.

Putting up these plaques is the brainchild of the local council, with assistance and guidance from Tonbridge Civic Society, Tonbridge Historical Society, Men of Kent and Kentish Men and the Town Wardens.

Miss Acton's plaque was unveiled at a special ceremony at The Priory, Bordyke. It was made by Aylesford Pottery.

Cabinet member for leisure, youth and arts, Maria Heslop said: "Tonbridge has a long and rich history and many well-known people have lived here.

"It is right that we should celebrate the town's heritage and the council hopes that this initiative will highlight these links with our past."

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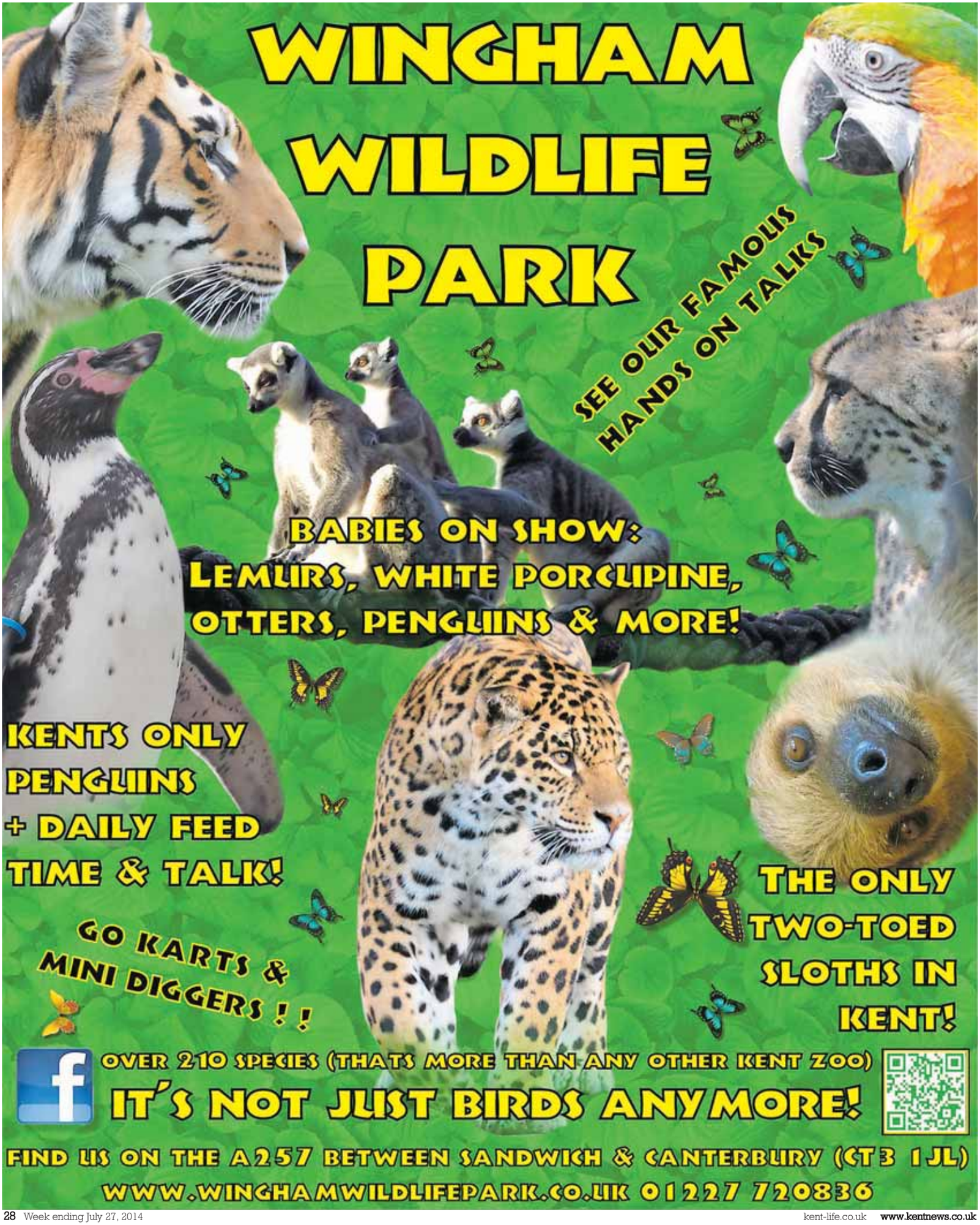
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SUNSHINE AND SHOWERS: Chart-toppers Scouting for Girls, pictured far right, and X Factor's Luke Friend, left, were among the entertainment crowds enjoyed at the 77th Dartford Festival

Deluge can't dampen festival's high spirits

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ORGANISERS of this year's Dartford Festival have hailed the event a huge success, with thousands braving the sweltering weather for the annual celebration.

The event took part in Central Park as temperatures rose to 30C-plus, before the heat gave way to heavy rain and thunderstorms.

Now in its 77th year, Dartford Borough Council has developed the festival from a town carnival into one of the biggest free festivals in the south east.

Among the acts performing were chart-toppers Scouting for Girls and The Beat.

Also wooing the crowds was Luke Friend – the 17-year-old star of TV show the X Factor.

Away from the main stage, a host of charities, organisations and businesses worked hard to put on displays, demonstrations and activities.

Council leader Jeremy Kite said: "We've already had so much positive feedback about this year's festival.

"I know some councils are cutting back on festivals, but not here in Dartford. We love doing it and I'm delighted that people had such a great time.

"From the huge crowds in early afternoon through to the dancers in the deluge it showed the very best of Dartford and we look forward to next year's event."

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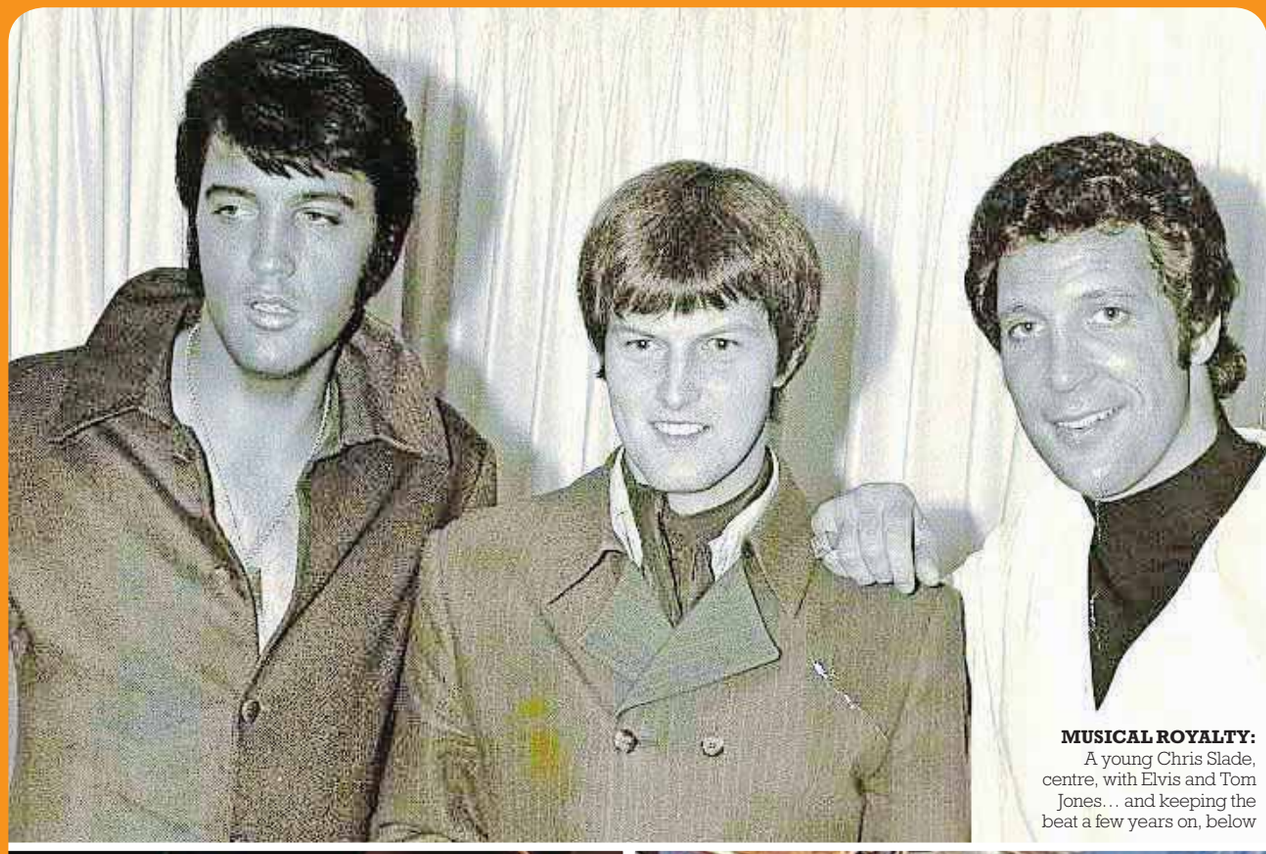
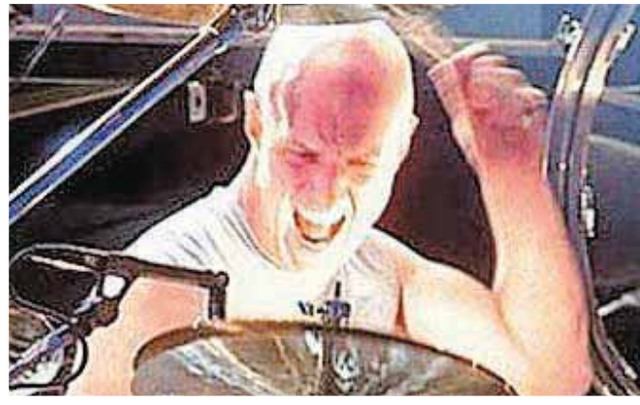


MUSICAL ROYALTY: A young Chris Slade, centre, with Elvis and Tom Jones… and keeping the beat a few years on, below



Drummer boy Chris shows he's still keeping good time

Chris Slade has performed with some of the best in the business, including AC/DC. Next month he is playing at his local beer festival in Ashford… here he tells **David Mairs** about his life in music and turning down the chance to play with Elvis.

SOMETIMES it surprises you, the talented folk who live in your midst. Particularly those who have plied their trade at the highest tables of entertainment and, dare we say it, stardom.

Take Chris Slade, a man who lives in Ashford and who from 1989-94 was drummer with AC/DC, one of the biggest rock bands the world has known. He also played with Manfred Mann's Earth Band, Uriah Heep, Asia, Gary Moore, Michael Schenker Group, Gary Numan and The Firm. Oh, and with Tom Jones... and Olivia Newton-John, too.

Speaking to him, it's not rocket science to deduce from his soft, lilting accent that Slade is from South Wales. Pontypridd, to be precise. But he's a local (to us) boy, really.

"I've been moving around Kent and East Sussex half my life, I think. I was in the Hastings area, then the Ashford area – I left Pontypridd when I was 17 or 18. I used to go back to see the family, of course, but my life is up here. I lived in Sunbury in a boat on the Thames in the mid-1960s."

As evidence of his Kent grounding, Slade will be headlining next month's Ashford Rugby Club Beer Festival with his touring band THE CHRIS SLADE TIMELINE.

Talking with someone who has led as diverse a life in the world of rock as one might imagine, the

Continued on page 35 »

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« Continued from page 33

inevitable first question is what were the highlights.

"They were all highlights, to be honest. I suppose it's got to be AC/DC – they were arguably the biggest band in the world."

"Pink Floyd?" I venture.

"Won't tour."

"We sold more than the Stones and if you combine touring and albums we were at least as big as The Beatles."

And then, with due recognition of this writer's self-indulgence, there's Rush, a band who are almost so uncool they're cool... and who also are hugely popular across the world.

"They were all highlights... I suppose it's AC/DC – they were arguably the biggest band in the world"

"I know the guys – they actually do better touring than they do selling records.

"I first met Neil [Rush drummer Peart] when he had been in the band just two weeks – they were supporting the Earth Band.

"I remember talking to him and we were discussing drummers' roles as lyricists – he's very philosophical, very intelligent."

It's a point worth making as Slade himself points out that drummers do not always receive the respect they might deserve, especially as it's their role to keep the band in time.

"Drumming is a much-maligned occupation," he said. "It's a bit like being a goalkeeper in football – if a goal goes in, it's his fault. It's the drummer's job to keep time – if that isn't there, then you have a problem.

"Some drummers just won't learn their lessons... maybe they can't.

"I never used a click track [think of it as an electronic metronome to set the beat] with AC/DC. A lot of people give drummers a click track in their headphones, which should keep everybody in time.

"The rest of the band listen to the drummer – at least that's what has been happening in the last 15 or 20 years. You're calling the shots. If you're confident in your timekeeping you can rein in those people who are

Continued on page 36 »

RAZOR-SHARP: Slade played with AC/DC for five years before resigning when told the band were considering bringing back former drummer Phil Rudd

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straying. With a lot of people you've got to be really stern – tell them I'm sitting right here where it started and where it's going to finish."

If AC/DC, for whom he played on the 1990 album The Razors Edge, was just about the highlight of a career spent among the stars, Slade's time with fellow Pontypridd boy Tom Jones, whom he joined as one of his Squires at the age of 16 in the 1960s, clearly made almost as big an impression.

"Tom was bigger than Sinatra and Elvis put together and I'm not exaggerating – he was huge in America. We did Madison Square Garden in 1966 with the Count Basie Orchestra, who I played with as well. They were booked back to back and they had a 35-piece orchestra, who did their set and then Tom did his bit."

It seems there's no one in the world of rock that Slade doesn't know or about whom he hasn't got a story.

Like the time journalist Jon Landau gave the album Greetings From Asbury Park N.J. from "unknown singer-songwriter" Bruce Springsteen to Manfred Mann, who "took one of the songs and rearranged it completely" before releasing it as a single... "Blinded By The Light is still Springsteen's only No 1," said Slade, with just the tiniest hint of irony.

Perhaps the biggest story for Slade, though, is what didn't happen.

While drumming for Tom Jones, he was asked to play for Elvis Presley... but it was an offer he had to refuse.

"It's the biggest regret of my career," he said. "I was contracted to Tom and his manager Gordon Miles wouldn't let me out of it, so I couldn't make the rehearsals for Elvis.

"I met him a few times – he came to a few of our shows, saw us perform and liked what he saw. He said 'You know what, we could use you and [another drummer] Ronnie Tutt.

> **"It's the biggest regret of my career. I was contracted to Tom, so I couldn't make the rehearsals for Elvis"**

"I was 21 or 22 at the time and perhaps didn't have the confidence, but I should have just walked."

An understandable sentiment on reflection maybe, but, given that Slade recalls Jones as a bigger draw than Presley anyway, perhaps it's also a little puzzling.

"They were certainly of the same status," he said. "Tom had a weekly TV show in the States – as I said, he was huge.

"That was the consolation – playing with Tom was good, but to play for the iconic Elvis as a British drummer was on a different level. I would have been playing for the most iconic figure ever in rock'n'roll and it was going to be for an Elvis movie."

Despite the regret, Slade is "very proud" of having been asked to play for Elvis. "I must have been doing something right," he said.

The experiences of the great and the good in the world of rock just kept on coming.

Although he never met Pink Floyd front man Roger Waters, he did play with band guitarist David Gilmour "between the two Floyds" and "met the others guys just two years ago".

He played with Floyd drummer Nick Mason at Rock'n'Roll Fantasy Camp.

With the drummer setting the time for a band, how does it work when you have two playing together?

"You follow each other, you blend, which is what you try to do in a band anyway. I like Nick's laid-back snare, while I drive a band.

"Nick's got a great sense of time and is also one of nicest people you could meet. I worked with him for a full year when most of our time was spent on buses, so we know each other pretty well."

It might surprise some that drummers – some of them anyway – have a well-developed sensitive side and this can find expression through the writing of lyrics.

Slade wrote while with the Earth Band and has co-written pieces when on the road. Fans might get to hear some of these at the beer festival, where his band will be playing some two hours on the Friday evening, when the party should be in full swing.

It's been a career worthy of a book, and indeed one should soon be on its way, but – missing out on Elvis aside – there were low points and some tough decisions.

For example, how did the move away from Tom Jones come about?

"I'd been with Tom 10 years and it was time to move on. We'd started together and literally used to eat every other day – we lived in a basement flat in London with [bass player] Vernon Mills and if it wasn't

Continued on page 37»

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« Continued from page 36

for food parcels from home we would have really struggled."

Does he still see the now Sir Tom?

"Five years ago I was in Las Vegas, where he was playing to packed audiences every night. I told him I'd enjoyed the show and said goodbye. Then, purely by chance, I walked in to a bar at about 4am and he was there and we had a beer."

For all the names, all the bands and all the stories, you still get the idea that Slade is defined by his five years with AC/DC, that perhaps he most defines himself by that period. Sadly, it was one that ended abruptly when the band's legendary rhythm

"It absolutely devastated me. I didn't touch a drumstick for three years... it came as a bolt out of the blue"

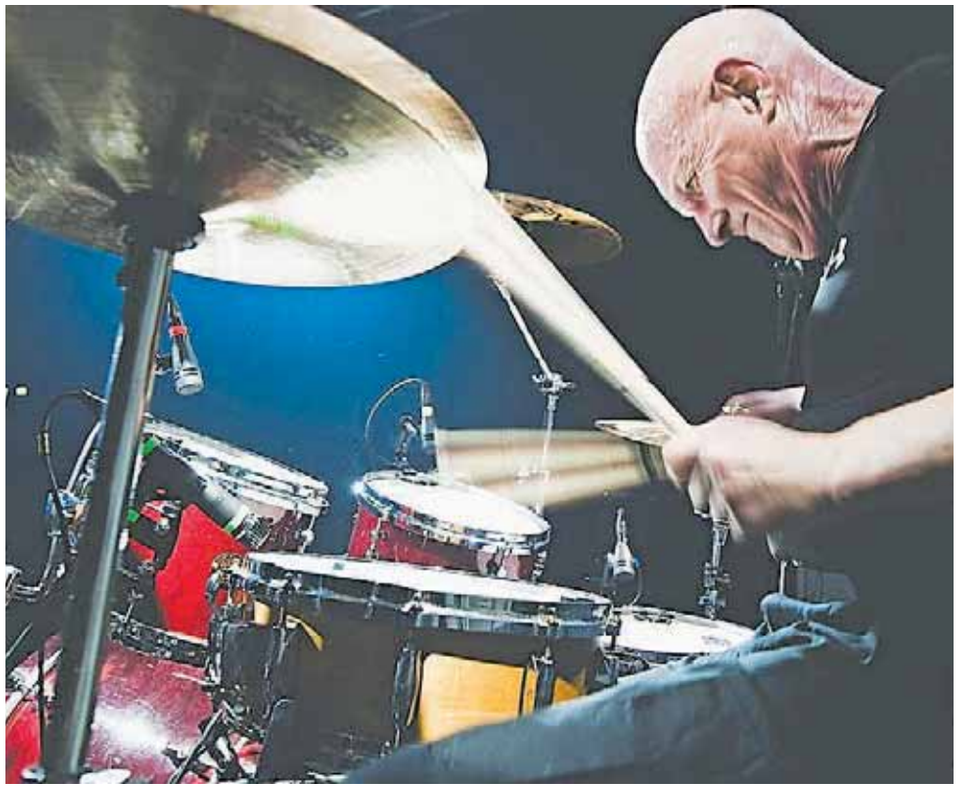
guitarist Malcolm Young called him to say that the band were considering getting back together with former drummer Phil Rudd.

To say Slade took the news badly would be a striking understatement.

"It absolutely devastated me," he said. "I didn't touch a drumstick for three years. We'd done two months of demos and it came as a bolt out of the blue.

"I'm very philosophical and Malcolm said it's nothing you're not doing or doing wrong – we're just trying Phil out. I resigned on the spot.

"I did meet Phil and the guys later and we went for a beer.



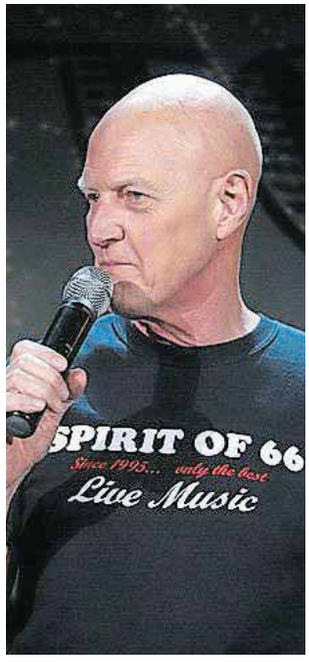
THE BEAT STILL GOES ON: Catch Chris Slade and his band at Ashford Rugby Club's beer festival in August

"After that, I went to art college and thought 'Put your heart and soul into this'."

Heart and soul... the phrase rings true as there's an honesty that shines from Chris Slade when you speak to him. His book will assuredly be worth reading, as much as his music will be worth listening to at Ashford's beer festival in August.

Fellow rockers, be there!

■ **Ashford Rugby Club Beer Festival (Canterbury Road, Ashford) runs from Friday to Sunday, August 29-31.**



THE CHRIS SLADE TIMELINE are playing on the Friday, when the gates open at 4pm, with music beginning at 6pm. Slade's band take to the stage at 10pm.

On the Saturday, gates open at 10am, rugby starts at 10.30am and music begins at 1pm.

On Sunday, the festival is open from 10.30am-5pm.

Tickets for each day are priced at £7.50, except for Sunday, which has free entry.

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food & drink

Restaurant chain a Fyne example of doing it right

Shopping around for a good meal, **David Mairs** was delighted to discover an establishment with an excellent reputation really is still cooking up a treat

LOCH FYNE enjoys an enviable reputation in a way many food chains do not.

In fairness to those that don't, the simple fact they are chains invariably works against them, regardless of the actual quality of their food.

By the same token, a chain restaurant needs to work that touch harder to establish a good name among the dining public, particularly the food snobs among its number.

The more outlets you have, the more difficult the job to establish and, perhaps tougher still, maintain a reputation.

After all, it makes for an awful lot of meals to be served, with the potential for any one of them to go wrong – and, if there's any area where food can go violently the wrong way, it's fish.

As such, we can but applaud the manner in which Loch Lyne has so boldly, imaginatively and, perhaps above all, successfully taken on the challenge.

The company shows a commendable attitude to sustainability and, again, seafood is an area where this is critical.

It also knows a thing or two about the importance of seasonal variation in the menu. It goes without saying that now is the time of its spring and summer menu... and it's really rather good.

> **“Some things and some places are too tempting to avoid, and so I gleefully visited Loch Fyne”**

Among the dishes highlighted by Loch Fyne itself are home-made fish soup with Gruyère and salt-cod brandade croutons, an apple-and-crevette salad with a tarragon dressing and fresh summer fruits with lemon panna cotta.

There have also been some changes to the two-course set menu. New dishes include king-prawn-and-squid spaghetti with sun-dried tomato, wild rocket and tapenade, a seasonal whole fish and the return of the summer favourite Bradan Rost (salmon cured with salt and brown sugar and then smoked for 12 hours before being roast) salad with pear, pumpkin seed and butternut squash.

Some things and some places are too tempting to avoid, and so I gleefully visited the Loch Fyne restaurant at Bluewater with expectations high.

And a wonderful experience followed.

I ate alfresco close to a lake complete with fountain and simply took the advice of the knowledgeable and friendly waiter (whose name I have sadly mislaid) and enjoyed a delightful meal in delightful conditions.

I could have been in the south of France just as easily as in one the country's largest shopping centres.

To start, I had chilli-and-garlic king prawns pan-fried in lemon oil with granary bread – a favourite, I was assured, and I could see why.

For main it was whole-grilled sea bass with sautéed potatoes and chilli jam, alongside French fries and pan-fried samphire in garlic butter. Exquisite!

The level of excellence never once dipped and I wound up with passion-fruit cheesecake and passion-fruit-and-mango sorbet, the whole glorious occasion set to the seducing tone of a glass of Savino Pinot Grigio.

Perhaps it was partly my summery mood, but it was difficult to imagine how any part of the meal could have been bettered.

Loch Fyne set its bar high from the start and it continues to soar over and above. Happy days.

■ **Loch Fyne**,
West Village, Bluewater, DA9 9SE
(telephone 01322 623930)

» For more food and drink articles pick up a copy of this month's KENT LIFE

The Hare left me hopping with delight

The Hare

Location: Tunbridge Wells

By **Maria Chiorando**

LOCATED in the leafy environs of Tunbridge Wells, next to a charming church, and even featuring a perfect Labrador playing fetch with a tennis ball in the field next door, The Hare is a quintessentially English establishment.

And it trades well on its olde English heritage. The bar is well stocked with a variety supply of spirits: all the usual suspects, then some more artisan brands.

There is also a fine range of ales on tap and a more than adequate wine list divided by style, for example 'warm and spicy'.

This is a neat touch and allows the drinker to confidently choose what they are looking for.

We chose a medium-priced Rioja and it didn't disappoint.

The menu reflects this commitment to our fair isle, with dishes showcasing classics like lamb, asparagus and beer-battered haddock and chips.

There are some unexpected twists, though... a Malaysian fish stew or five-spiced duck legs.

The menu was comprehensive without being worryingly expansive and disparate.

In a fit of gluttony, we decided on three courses, which, given the large portion sizes, was rash.

The menu points out that the mezze board can serve two as a meal, and indeed as a starter for two it was a touch excessive.

It's a perfectly well-assembled and generously-portioned platter of artichoke, stuffed bell peppers, sun-blushed tomatoes, olives, houmous, falafels, courgette fritters and pitta bread.

No surprises there, and everything was of a decent standard – no single element stood out, while the fritters could have used a slightly higher batter-to-vegetable ratio. It was an enjoyable and well-priced dish.

The main courses were also on the larger side.

The braised shoulder of lamb, with dauphinoise potatoes, petit pois and a mint jus was a well-balanced plate.

The meat was meltingly tender and sat well with the sweetness of the peas and the rich dauphinoisse.

The dauphinoise were a good example of a dish that's often done badly.

They stood up in a stack, as they should, and were not complicated with any unnecessary ingredients, which is so often the case.

The only real criticism here was the mint, which was perhaps too subtle – a stronger mint flavour would have enhanced the dish.

The sweet potato, aubergine and spinach curry with coconut rice and coriander-fried okra was a solid vegetarian option.

It was certainly tasty and hearty, but the unctuous sauce totally submerged the rice, which had been shaped into a small orb.

The proportions were slightly off, and the plate would have benefited from less curry, or different presentation, as it turned soupy, the rice lost in the depth of the liquid.

Pudding was a crème brûlée, which was delicious, though someone had been a little over-eager with the blowtorch – the crust would have benefited from being a little thinner.

A blackcurrent sorbet was perfect and rounded off a rich meal well.

The only low point was the coffee: mindful of my drive home, I ordered a double expresso, my fellow diner a single.

It was watery with no crema, and the double was a longer coffee rather than an extra shot.

But this was a drop in the ocean of what was a good meal. The service must also be commended as efficient and friendly.

Overall, highly recommended.

The bill came to just shy of £75.

■ **The Hare**
Langton Road, Langton Green
Tunbridge Wells TN3 0JA
(phone 01892 862419)

Book now... for Christmas

Christmas in the manor you'll become accustomed to with a visit to Eastwell

THE sights and smells of Eastwell Manor's Christmas decorations are legendary.

Real Christmas trees will adorn the hotel between November 30 and January 6... we recommend a visit.

Organise your bespoke personal or corporate Christmas party in the Manor: the historic, wood-panelled rooms, suitable for up to 80 people, look even more beautiful by candlelight.

The Pavilion is ideal for bigger, less formal parties of 60-120 people and your event will be tailor-made for you.

Event organisers can arrange any additional entertainment to make your party one to remember, with prices satrting from £38 per person.

Eastwell Manor has some wonderful events planned over the festive period.

Slip on your dancing shoes and go to a Christmas Ball; try your luck at the virtual race night; enjoy the romantic sounds of 'Bublé' and 'Sinatra' at the Vegas-themed party or, for the more energetic, there is a fabulous Motown tribute act.

Each event begins with a reception before a specially-created dinner in the two-rosette Manor Restaurant, followed, of course, by exceptional entertainment.

Why not spoil yourself and your loved ones: go to an event and stay the night from £75 per person. Two- and three-night residential packages including a Twixmas (me time) break from £250 per person. All overnight stays include full English breakfast and use of the extensive spa facilities.

For further information, to request a brochure or to make a booking, phone 01233 213020 or email reservations@eastwellmanor.co.uk. A festive brochure is available at www.eastwellmanor.co.uk.

Champagne Bar pub's toast to a very merry Christmas

THE picturesque 14th-century Red Lion pub in Hernhill near Faversham dates back to the 1300s and still contains many original features.

It offers a selection of traditional English food alongside the frequently-changing seasonal specials.

Facilities include a new upstairs Champagne Bar – perfect for large functions – a front patio overlooking the village green and well-established pub garden.

The Champagne Bar and restaurant are the perfect place to host your Christmas party – fantastic service and a choice of great food for your festive fun.

The cosy atmosphere will make you want to stay all day and all night.

Should you decide to book your date for Christmas, please phone 01227 751207 or contact the pub through www.theredlion.org.uk. For parties of 10 or more, a non-returnable deposit is required, which can be paid once you have booked.

Little slice of Italian alternative way of celebrating festivities

ESTABLISHED in 1990, Don Giovanni is as popular today as it has ever been.

Offering superb Italian cuisine, the excellent food is backed up with years of experience.

The eatery offers a varied and extensive menu at reasonable prices.

Sunday to Thursday you can also enjoy any pizza and soft drink for only £10 or for £12 any pizza plus a beer or wine.

Set in the heart of Folkestone, Don Giovanni's is the perfect spot for businesses to celebrate the festive season. Seating up to 40 people, we can cater for work parties both small and large.

Don Giovanni's has built up a fantastic reputation across the county for its friendly service and homemade cuisine.

Please come and visit our newly-refurbished restaurant and see our new menu... we're sure you wont be disappointed.

Book early for your Christmas party to avoid disappointment. You can find Don Giovanni at 18 Bouverie Road West, Folkestone CT20 2SZ (telephone 01303 850 962, email bookings@dongiovanni.co.uk).

Family-run business invites you to get your teeth into some tasty traditional winter fare

THE Tudor Rose is a family-run business serving local fresh food daily, including all day Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The varied menu includes traditional dishes such as fish and chips, steak-and-ale suet pudding and barbecued pulled pork burger, to regularly-changing specials including smoked poached haddock and sizzling 10oz steaks.

It also has a carvery running Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday from noon to 5.30pm; this will also run every day and evening in December. So book your Christmas party now, for family and friends to enjoy our honey-glazed gammon, roast turkey, beef and pork served wth all the trimmings.

Our private function room can cater for any occasion, from weddings and birthdays to funerals, providiing buffets to suit individuals.

These can either be hot and cold finger buffet including somosas, spring rolls and drumsticks, sandwiches to knife-and-fork buffet including dressed salmon, oriental salads and meat flats.

It is also a good friendly pub for a social drink in the bar area or in our large beer garden and we have live bands once a month in our fuction room, open to everybody.

We're taking bookings now for Christmas; call at Chestnut Street, Borden, Sittingbourne ME9 8BT or phone 01795 842 575.

NTW

Book now... for Christmas

Monster offer for monster ball

[illegible] year, is taking bookings for the 2014 Christmas Party season.

One all-inclusive ticket price includes arrival drinks, Christmas dinner, wine with your meal and an evening's entertainment including live music, DJ and the Monster Christmas Ball Casino.

This is all set within a purpose-built Christmas venue available for large group bookings and shared party nights.

Visit www.kentchristmasparty.com for dates and further information or phone the booking office on 01227 701042.

Countryside retreat combines ancient with a modern twist for the perfect rural venue

WELCOME to the Anchor and Hope public house in the village of Ash, about two miles from Brands Hatch racing circuit and four miles from Bluewater.

The Anchor & Hope is an independent country pub run and owned by Emma Pearson and Benjamin Eldridge.

Along with a great team of people, our aim is to ensure you have a good time, whatever your reason for visiting us.

Recently refurbished, our pub and restaurant combines a modern contemporary feel with the beauty of a 16th-century coaching inn.

We have an extensive range of beers, wines and spirits and three well-kept real ales for those of you who enjoy a good pint.

If you are looking to dine with us, then we have both a bar menu or a restaurant menu from which you can choose.

We have a large patio area to the front and side of the pub and a very large garden.

There is also plenty of parking, so whatever your reason – a holiday or day out in Kent, a shopping trip to Bluewater, or a trip to Brands Hatch – why don't you pop in and see us?

You can even stay the night in one of our en-suite bedrooms.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Anchor and Hope in the near future.

Hotel chain offers exciting range of events to cater for all your party needs, and you can stay the night

LEAF Hotels in east Kent has an exciting range of Christmas events including Christmas parties and festive lunches

One can choose to hold their Christmas celebration at Harbledowns at the Holiday Inn Express Canterbury, the Ramada Dover and the Best Western Plus Dover Marina Hotel & Spa, with all venues offering free car parking and able to cater for small and large parties

Prices range from £14.95 per person for Christmas Fayre Lunches at the Holiday Inn Express Canterbury to the Ramada Dover Party nights starting at £26.95 and a traditional Christmas Day Lunch at the Best Western Plus Dover Marina Hotel & Spa at £72.95

The Christmas parties include a three-course meal and dancing, while the Festive Fayre lunches include a three-course Christmas Lunch together with the festive decorations

A special 10 per cent discount applies to bookings made and deposit paid prior to August 31.

Special bed and breakfast accommodation rates for attendees at Christmas parties are available from £49 per room at the Holiday Inn Express Canterbury through to £69 per standard room at the Ramada Dover and the Best Western Plus Dover Marina Hotel & Spa.

All Leaf hotels offer Christmas Eve Dinner, Christmas Day Lunch & Dinner, Boxing Day Lunch & Dinner and a New Year's Eve Dinner Dance.

To avoid disappointment, it is recommended to book early.

For bookings:

- Holiday Inn Express Canterbury (01227 865000, www.hiexpresscanterbury.co.uk)
- Ramada Dover (01304 821230, www.ramadadover.co.uk)
- Best Western Plus Dover Marina Hotel & Spa (01304 203633, www.dovermarinahotel.co.uk)

Rip-roaring time and home-cooked food is promised when you visit The Red Lion

THE Red Lion in Sittingbourne is now taking Christmas bookings for 2014.

The Red Lion offers fabulous home-cooked food, using local butchers and suppliers, at very competitive prices.

All of our meats come from local award-winning butchers, Doughty's of Doddington, plus a good selection of fresh, local vegetables to accompany your Christmas meal.

The Red Lion offers a superb selection of fine wines at competitive prices and a varied selection of cask ales, including some seasonal temptations to get you into the Christmas spirit.

We pride ourselves at The Red Lion on offering you the best service in our beautiful 14th-century Inn.

The restaurant is lit up during the winter by candlelight and a rip-roaring fire, creating a special festive atmosphere that is perfect for any work Christmas party, or just friends or family wanting to get together at Christmas.

LANDLORD'S SPECIAL OFFER

A bottle of wine of your choice, per every four people.

Book early for Friday and Saturday nights and enjoy our live music after your Christmas meal.

Phone us on 01795 472706 to book now or to receive a menu in the post. Menus are also available to view on our website at www.theredlion-inn.co.uk.

feedback

your **say...**

Send us your views.
Write to: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP
Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter: @kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Lessons could be learned from past

I REALLY enjoyed your article about the Gravesend to Tilbury ferry (KoS, 13/07).

As someone who grew up in the 1960s, it has been sad watching the ferry's decline.

There were some really strange short-sighted transport decisions during that period, notably the Beeching axe for the railways, but scrapping the car ferry while leaving the passenger one was just as bad.

Cars can't be transported on foot passenger ferries, but foot passengers can certainly be taken on car ferries.

The decision that all would be well once the Dartford tunnel was built and there would be no need for a car ferry proved disastrous.

If this service was still in operation these days it would be prospering.

Sometimes, like with the railways and trams, you need to go back to go forward. Perhaps some new infrastructure for a car ferry would be preferable to spending billions on new bridges and tunnels that will rip up and cause chaos to this part of Kent for years to come.

Paul Harrison, Gravesend

London viewpoint blind to solution

READING the July 13 edition of KoS, I was struck by two related articles: the on-again, off-again story of the Thames estuary airport and the demise (again) of Manston Airport.

I have been saying for years why don't they develop Manston.

To build an airport on Grain or in the estuary would need need huge foundations to make sure the whole thing didn't sink into the mud, plus roads, a rail link, airport buildings, runways and hotels – not to mention blowing up the SS Montgomery.

Manston, though, already has a runway and the basic building blocks of an airport.

So why has this site never been developed? I would suggest it is the London-centric viewpoint of the developers who see the depths of Kent as being much further away from London than they really are.

Dana Adler, Chatham

Memorial would be a fitting tribute

I AGREE we should erect lasting memorials to those who gave their lives for their country 100 years ago (KoS Letters, last week).

And funding by donations is definitely the best way to go.

I suppose there are those who objected to the Cenotaph being put up in Whitehall, but just look at the result of that now.

I think giving a memorial to the arch fund in Folkestone will reinforce our gratitude to those who made the ultimate sacrifice and a crowning glory to those brave souls whom it commemorates.

Patricia Erricker, Dover

LETTER OF THE WEEK

KCC failings there in black and white, sir

I WRITE in relation to Kent County Council's education chief Roger Gough, who in last week's KoS responded to my article that had appeared the previous week.

My article highlighted the appalling standard of primary school Ofsted outcomes in Kent.

It linked these to the sharp increase in primary headship vacancies in the county, the difficulty in filling these positions and the brutal manner in which too many heads are removed from their posts, which is creating a climate in which Kent primary heads fear for their jobs while deputy headteachers are having second thoughts about placing themselves in the firing line, all leading to a sharp fall in morale.

Mr Gough will be aware of the motion passed at the recent National Association of Headteachers' Conference that stated: "Conference calls upon the national executive to highlight the number of school leaders being forced from their posts through spurious and unacceptable means by the bullying actions of some local authorities who seek to remove experienced and skilled headteachers to make way for academy sponsorship or other forms of school governance."

This motion was proposed by the Kent branch.

This hardly chimes with the support he claims is coming from headteachers for the way the county goes about changing school leadership for the good of the schools and is a complete vindication of my argument.

Neither does he address my crucial point that, after the changes, so many primary schools are left without permanent full-time leadership for too long, only contributing to the problem.

With regard to Ofsted inspection outcomes, I was very careful to distinguish between the poor primary outcomes and the excellent secondary and special school results.

Mr Gough makes no reference to the 16 (now 17) primary schools that have failed their Ofsteds since September, over three times the national average.

He makes no reference to the fact more Kent primary schools have seen a fall in Ofsted rating since September than have improved.

He also makes no reference to the fact that Kent, last year 133rd among 151 local authorities for primary school Ofsted outcomes, has seen a further decline in performance this year, with 53 per cent of Kent's primary schools being classified 'good' or 'outstanding' against a national percentage of 59 per cent.

Instead he chooses to ignore these dreadful statistics.

How on earth are we to see the situation improve if Kent County Council flatly refuses to acknowledge the scale of the problem it has brought about?

Peter Read, Kent Education Advice, Gravesend

Drive-by killer left me heartbroken

ON Monday, July 14, at about 6pm, in Oaklands Avenue, St Peter's, I pulled over to let a car past.

It slowly and purposely headed towards a seagull in the road and continued to run over the top of it.

I jumped out of my car and was screaming at the individual, an older gentleman in his 60s with his wife in the car. They blankly chose not to make eye contact with me and continued down the road.

The seagull was in shock and the car had left it paralysed.

I had to take the horrifically-injured bird to the vets to be put down. I was absolutely heartbroken.

I want the person who did this to realise what they've done. You may not feel remorse for killing in cold blood, but you could feel remorse for leaving a 30-year-old hysterical in the road. You clearly have no heart.

Lucy Glover- Short, Ramsgate

Decision to call time was wrong

SOME time ago, local residents were sent details of a planning application to scrap the telephone box at the top of St John's Hill in Sevenoaks.

People who wrote in about this received no reply from the council (the council normally replies to objections to planning applications) yet now it has disappeared without further warning.

Three points seem to arise from this:

- it is wrong this has been done without objectors being notified.
- is it right any property-owner should be able to demand the cessation of a public service because they don't like it being sited outside his premises?
- this facility was necessary a fews years ago when a number of home phone lines went dead.

BT must do better but in any case should not have policy dictated by property-owners, as has happened here.

John Humphrey, Sevenoaks

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

images of kent

Guildhall at Faversham

by **Brian Summer from Faversham**

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Kent on Sunday

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Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

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Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. mydate24

FEMALE 38, attractive, African, single mum, seeks male, 35-50 for nights out, socialising, friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412793**

PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297**

WIDOW 70, lonely, seeking gent, 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475**

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412319**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTM not too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315**

MARY 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting, lots of interests WLTM likeminded caring, happy male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412169**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127**

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053**

SHARON 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who also knows a good time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412049**

BLONDE pretty, long legged, voluptuous, blue eyes, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410585**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 408297**

SLIM petite, attractive brunette, 56, British/Russian origin, excellent cook/home maker, seeks cultured male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412129**

FREYA 33 6ft blonde, loves dancing and have a good time, employed, own home, one son, seeking similar laidback guy/dad for dates, chats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412045**

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. **Tel: 0905 002 1945 Box No: 412285**

MARILYN really nice curvy tactile female, loves romantic walks, cosy nights in, quality times, looking for nice male to spend time and fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411871**

PLACE YOUR AD BY TEXT
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REG 80098 Send
FREE (Standard Network rates apply)

JAN 5ft 6ins, dark hair/eyes, nice smile, likes music, travel, countryside, animals, employed, OHAC, looking for companionship with similar lonely heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411865**

SARAH 25 petite slim attractive blonde student, enjoys keeping fit, looking good, socialising, going out, being a mum WLTM similar fun genuine guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411537**

JULIE attractive outgoing female with a very young attitude, loves running, living life, travel, WLTM someone special to make my life complete, hope you're out there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411513**

LADY 60, size 12, easy going, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411301**

LINDA 37, green eyes, attractive, bubbly size 12, enjoys cosy nights in, text chats, seeking tallish fun guy for meals out, pubs, clubs and spending quality times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411033**

CAROLINE 39yr old pretty blonde looking for handsome caring man to put the sparkle back into my life and make each other feel special. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411891**

33YR old sick of being single working mum, OHAC, likes the simple things in life, looking for romantic, honest guy with GSOH for cosy nights in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411887**

CINDY 31 attractive, size 12 brown eyed blonde, new to this but sick of passing up potential soul mate so thought I wld give it a go. ACA **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873**

RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 1ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male 45-55 with GSOH and similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775**

JANET 5ft 8ins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411689**

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509**

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410137**

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413**

RACHEL 39, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 6ins, bubbly, outgoing, naughty, busty, divorced, seeks male for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410835**

SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467**

CATHY very much a lady seeks gent up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional sassy female who loves to be wined, dined and romanced. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301**

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easygoing, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

CATHY happy independent female looking for her soul mate, someone to spend quality time but who also likes their own space. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409909**

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/ active, WLTM fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037**

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs. GSOH essential. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410717**

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410709**

RACHAEL 36yr old nurse looking to raise the temperature of reliable sincere male. I have my OACH, a single mum to 1, love gym, cosy meals, animals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411045**

SATURDAY night blues! Home alone again and looking for male companionship. blonde, slim, 32yrs, attractive, what are you waiting for? call me if you're normal and lovely. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408867**

LOCAL man wishes to meet nice lady for fun/friendship with a view to possible relationship. Respond if interested. Sevenoaks. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4334837**

RETIRED male, seeks attractive female for friendship and fun, any age/status/colour. East Kent, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413133**

AMIABLE intelligent male, 77, light smoker, seeks slim lady for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413127**

MATURE male, looking for discreet meetings with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413039**

FRANK 54, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, smoker, seeking friendship with mature female, 40-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412893**

COMPANY Director, mature, late 50's, seeking female, any age for mutually rewarding friendship, Kent/Surrey area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412819**

IAN 5ft 11ins, likes rock/roll, singing, making people laugh, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412799**

WRITER tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749**

BARRY divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717**

MALE seeking friendship of mature woman, smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412703**

SUSAN 29 green eyes, dark hair, slim, looking for Mr tall dark and handsome to take me out, enjoy adult times without complications just fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410957**

KAREN blonde blue eyed slim 35yr old interesting female looking for good times, call me if are in a similar situation, board and looking for some fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410719**

JANE pretty size 12, loves going out socialising, countryside, meals out, looking for no strings fun, nothing heavy, give me a call if you are seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410579**

SUE 32 blonde blue eyed curvy nurse, caring, loving romantic, faithful, likes cosy nights in with a nice wine and lovely man, if that's you, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410571**

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408293**

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. mydate24

SINGLE young lady, slim-medium build, 24-38 sought by mature male in Canterbury. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212**

JAMES young, free and single, please give me a call if interested. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412345**

EX headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263**

MALE 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235**

BESIDE the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, legginess, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223**

45YR old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship. Herne Bay area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993**

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725**

MALE 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477**

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433**

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309**

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411147**

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133**

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127**

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971**

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899**

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511**

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441**

41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411**

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377**

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351**

RETIRED male, fit, active, seeks no strings discreet meet with female, any age and size. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410343**

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339**

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191**

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025**

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409745**

TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-going female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409621**

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533**

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189**

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575**

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541**

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421**

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415**

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343**

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855**

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homely, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835**

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355**

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277**

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Eurotunnel revenue rise as ferry firm losses rise

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

EUROTUNNEL has seen another sharp increase in traffic, with revenues up 8 per cent and a growth in both passengers of high-speed trains and freight trains.

Revenues went up by some 8 per cent to 559 million euros (£441.5m), with earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and ammortalisation (EBITDA) up 6 per cent to 216m euros (£170m).

However, the group's chief executive Jacques Gounon admitted "the most likely scenario" was that the MyFerryLink service, which Eurotunnel owns and operates between Dover and Calais, will have to be stopped by the end of the year.

That follows a ruling from the UK competitions watchdog that it was an unfair competitor in the cross-Channel market, given Eurotunnel's dominance of alternative routes.

Eurotunnel is appealing the ruling and, for now at least, the ferry operation continues as normal.

In its financial statement, the company said of its ferry service: "Freight traffic has leapt by 30 per cent despite the series of negative announcements from the Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA), which is a clear indication of customer support for MyFerryLink.

ON THE UP: Eurotunnel revenues

"For cars, a continuing lack of awareness of MyFerryLink is slowing its progression. It is on behalf of the customers who are attracted in significant numbers to the quality service offered by this maritime operator that Eurotunnel is appealing the prohibition, decreed by the CMA, from operating out of Dover.

"This decision, if it is confirmed, would lead immediately to a reduction in consumer choice across the Channel and would probably increase prices for consumers."

In the first half of the year, the ferry firm lost some 14m euros, which went a long way to contributing to the overall 11m loss Eurotunnel experienced.

It would add some weight to the argument of cross-Channel competitors that claim Eurotunnel can operate MyFerryLink at a loss to artificially drive down prices to squeeze out rivals.

Added M Gounon: "All areas of our business are growing. The fixed link [tunnel] achieved a record level of operating margin in a very active cross-Channel market."

A decision on MyFerryLink, which acquired the assets of SeaFrance when it went bust, is expected later this year.

£10m UTC gets planning nod

PLANNING permission has been granted for the construction of the £10 million Medway University Technical College, the new engineering-focused secondary school opening to students in Gravesham, Maidstone, Medway, Tonbridge and Malling and Swale.

On a 0.8-hectare site at the Chatham Waters development, if work all goes to plan the school will open for students aged 14-19 in September 2015.

Pub completes £1.2m refurb

PUB chain giant JD Wetherspoon has opened a new outlet on Sheppey.

The Belle and Lion in Sheerness High Street was given planning permission back in February and is now open for business.

It follows a £1.2 million refurbishment of the former Brittain and Hobbs shop which the pub now occupies.

Around 60 jobs have been created as a consequence.

Interest-free loans to firms with fewer than 50 employees

KENT County Council is urging small businesses in east Kent to take advantage of a zero per cent interest loan being offered.

The loan comes from the Small Business Boost fund, part of the Expansion East Kent programme.

KCC is hoping dozens of small businesses – with fewer than 50 staff – will benefit from loans of up to £50,000.

The Small Business Boost has been created to help start-ups and existing businesses that have been trading for less than six years.

KCC leader Paul Carter launched the scheme at an event in Folkestone on Wednesday morning.

Cllr Carter said: "This offer of interest-free loans is aimed at providing a massive boost to small firms, entrepreneurs and start-ups to support business, generate jobs and grow the east Kent economy.

"Over the past year we've had tremendous success in backing medium and larger-scale businesses – creating thousands of extra jobs across the whole region.

"Now we want to focus on helping smaller operations for whom zero-rate finance can prove a vital stepping stone to expansion and unlocking private-sector finance.

"The intelligent use of funding means we can recycle the money to provide vital business support on an ongoing basis, benefitting local firms and creating local jobs for years to come."

Adds Jacqui Ward, regional growth fund manager at KCC: "Expansion East Kent welcomes small businesses to the scheme and looks forward to receiving and awarding loans to a range of companies so they can create more jobs opportunities."

Kent County Council has three Regional Growth Fund programmes operating across Kent – Expansion East Kent, Tiger and Escalate. See its website for details.

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Warner Leisure Hotels Premium Private Party Breaks

Swinging Sixties Christmas Party

£10pp DEPOSIT

£229pp 3 nights, Friday 28 November, 2014

Warner Norton Grange Isle of Wight	FREE DRINKS 6pm to Midnight every night	The Fourmost	Little Miss Sixties

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue ever.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers ● Entertainment ● 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts ● 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available ● Car ferry crossing worth £45

Mamma Mia & Super 70s Carry on New Year Party

£10pp DEPOSIT

£229pp 3 nights, Friday 9 January, 2015

Warner Bembridge Hotel Isle of Wight	FREE DRINKS 6pm to Midnight every night	Rock Stewart & Ultimate Elton	MAMMA MIA THE MOVIE	ABBA Tribute Band

Our private party extends the New Year festivities and takes us on a trip down memory lane at our favourite Warner hotel. Enjoy a gala New Year's Eve party with countdown to midnight and great entertainment.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers ● Entertainment ● 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts ● 3 nights en-suite **CHALET** - hotel upgrades available with rooms in main building from £259pp ● Car ferry crossing worth £45

Come Dancing Party

If you're a dance fan who enjoys ballroom and latin dancing, you'll love our popular Come Dancing Party, running alongside the Carry on New Year Party - add dance tuition, a Gala Ball, a huge dance floor with reserved table & seating and much more for just **£50pp** extra.

Swinging Sixties Fab Feb Party

£10pp DEPOSIT

£209pp 3 nights, Friday 6 February, 2015

Warner Corton Suffolk Coast	FREE DRINKS 6pm to Midnight every night	The Fortunes	Union Gap	Frankie Valli & Friends tribute

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, good food and a super location by the sea near Lowestoft in Suffolk make Warner's Corton Coastal Holiday Village a great party venue.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers ● Entertainment ● 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts ● 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available

Classic Private Party Breaks - Pontins Pakefield

Swinging 60s Christmas Party

£10pp DEPOSIT

£129pp 3 nights half board plus Friday 14 November, 2014

Marmalade	New Amen Corner
The Dakotas	Free Drinks

Join us for a cool weekend of swinging 60s sounds at Pontins seaside resort near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Groove to some great original 60s bands at an entertainment packed weekend break. You'll also enjoy 3 free drinks per person per night.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers ● Full entertainment programme ● 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available ● 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Quote US11-KOS

Super 70s Christmas Party

£10pp DEPOSIT

£129pp 3 nights half board plus Friday 21 November, 2014

Alvin Stardust	Abba Tribute	Rod Stewart Tribute
	Free Drinks	Frankie Valli Tribute

Join us for a cool weekend of swinging 70s sounds at Pontins seaside resort near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy an entertainment packed weekend with leather-clad 70s rocker Alvin Stardust performing live and our Abba-themed Christmas Party. You'll also enjoy 3 free drinks per person per night.

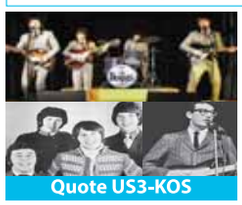
INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers ● Full entertainment programme ● 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available ● 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Spring Back to the 60s Party

£10pp DEPOSIT

£129pp 3 nights half board plus Friday 13 March, 2015

The Tremeloes	Buddy Holly Tribute	Swinging Blue Jeans
The Beatles Experience	Free Drinks	Dave Grant of Paper Lace



Join us for a party weekend to remember as we Spring Back to the 60s with a packed entertainment programme of original sounds and top tributes. Add to this the great location of Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk, and 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers ● Full entertainment programme ● 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available ● 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Bosworth Hall Hotel Summer Late Deals

Bosworth Hall is a super country house hotel located in the heart of the English countryside in the village of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. Dating back to the 17th century, this beautiful Grade II Listed mansion is set in landscaped gardens.

All the en-suite bedrooms are decorated with individual yet, traditional style. They all include TV, telephone, trouser press and tea & coffee making facilities.

The hotel also boasts a leisure club complete with fully-equipped gym and indoor pool (£4 per day payable at the hotel).

INCLUDED:

- 4 nights hotel stay sharing a twin or double-bedded en-suite room
- 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts

4 nights half board only £129pp

Arrive Mondays 4th & 11th August, 2014

Quote: BH8-KOS

ELECTRIC DREAMS: The Zoe is a car that many will want to buy through genuine desire rather than simply the wish to be seen to be green

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Renault is roaring back up ratings

French marque looked to be on the slide in the UK but has rebuilt its fortunes inside just two years

THINGS looked ominous for Renault in the UK after 2012.

The French brand had slashed its model line-up and dealers were understandably nervous at the way its budget stablemate Dacia was being promoted to fill some of the gaps.

Just two years on, though, and the wisdom of this strategy is clear: Renault and Dacia have just posted a half-year sales total for 2014 exceeding the 55,685 units the pair sold during the whole of 2012.

And while newbie Dacia's 1 per cent market share is almost double what it was last year, the more established Renault's 2.5 per cent still represents a 61 per cent boost, with the prospect of even more growth by year-end due to the imminent arrival of the all-new Trafic van and Twingo city car.

For now, demand has been heightened by Renault Summer Season offers – packages including customisation deals with tow-bars and bike-racks and 20 per cent discounts on other accessories.

The marque also upped its everyday offering recently with a four-year/100,000 warranty package – still short of what Hyundai, Kia and Toyota offer but better than the market norm.

But there's no doubt that Renault's rebirth is being driven by cars that people really want to be seen in, a philosophy that rescued the company before and is now echoed by the latest Clio supermini (from £10,795) and all-new Captur crossover (from £12,495).

The original Clio – also famous for its quirky TV ad and music – was a lifesaver then and its latest successor is doing a similar job, while the Captur is arguably the market's most stylish crossover-cum-pseudo SUV.

But Renault has now cast itself as the champion of electric power, too, with impressive contenders in both the commercial arena – in the form of the Kangoo ZE light van (from £12,995 ex VAT) – and Zoe city car (from £18,443 after the Government's £5,000 grant).

The five-door Zoe's styling is proof that electric cars don't need to look like they've been smacked by a giant frying pan, and Renault has made it as appealing to the pocket as it can.

The result is a car that you might aspire to irrespective of whether it's green or not – a contentious point here in the UK anyway, when most of our electricity comes with fossil-fuel emissions as baggage.

Renault also sweetens the deal with a free domestic charging point with fast- charging option and a four-year purchase deal of £174 per month, including £45 per month mandatory battery hire, and following a £2,750 deposit contribution.

Renault claims it costs less than two pence per mile to run and its 130-mile range is the longest of any mainstream electric car. However, the latter figure depends on the weather – low temperatures sap battery power – and how you drive the Zoe.

With a respectable 87bhp of electric pulling power available instantly across the range, this little car can be fun, particularly in cut-and-thrust town traffic.

It also handles well, even if battery weight make it feel a bit ponderous on corners, but you'll soon hammer the range if you exploit the car's chirpy nature.

It's also practical and the closest yet to an electric car you can buy from genuine desire rather than wanting to be seen to be green.

Other **view...**

the Petrolhead
I don't care if the Zoe looks better than other electric cars - none deliver on their green claims and they are dull to drive

She says
The Zoe really is cute in a great Renault tradition and I would consider it, even at a price higher than a conventional small car

the Eco-warrior
Zero emissions are good, but electric cars like the Zoe are a blind alley until we overhaul our electricity generation in the UK

Update

Renault Zoe

Price:	£18,443
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	Nissan Leaf

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown (excluding ZOE) are: Urban 40.4 (7)–47 (6); Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7)–64.02 (4.4); Combined 51.4 (5.5)–56.49 (5). The official CO_2 emissions are 127–115g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary with driving styles, road conditions and other factors. Renault ZOE CO_2 while driving: 0, mpg: n/a.

4+ Terms and exclusions apply. 4+ package available to non-business customers on new Renault vehicles. Warranty 4 years/100,000 miles and routine servicing 4 years/48,000 miles (whichever comes first). Servicing package available to Renault Selections customers only; alternatively can be purchased for just £299. Visit renault. co.uk/4plus for full details.

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***£2750 deposit contribution is available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault ZOE (excluding ZOE Expression). £1500 deposit contribution is available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault Clio (excluding Clio Expression and Renaultsport). £1000 deposit contribution is available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault Captur.**

****If you purchase your new Renault on Renault Selections, you will be eligible to receive a £500 contribution from Renault towards the purchase of your next new Renault vehicle. The contribution voucher will be available to download six months after the commencement date of your Renault Selections contract.**

†Renault ZOE offer includes the UK government's plug-in car grant (PiCG). ZOE monthly payment of £174 set out above includes a credit repayment of £129 per month and a separate mandatory battery hire repayment of £45 per month, based on 750 miles per calendar quarter, excess miles 30p per mile including VAT. Minimum duration 12 months. **You will not own the battery.** Visit renault.co.uk/zoe for full terms and conditions.

Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on specified new vehicles when ordered and registered by 30 September 2014. Clio shown has optional metallic paint, available at an additional £595. Captur shown has optional i.d. metallic paint at £495 and painted roof at £399.

The original Toyota Auris was simply a Corolla with a shinier name – however, its successor has got far more edge and appeal, as **Steve Loader** discovered…

SMART: Toyota's current Auris is more sylish than its predecessors and now comes in a rakish yet roomy Touring Sports format – better known as an estate

Generation two 'Goldfinger car' getting tough

EIGHT years ago, Toyota axed the Corolla name in the UK and Europe.

By motor-industry standards this was epic stuff; the Corolla name had appeared on more cars than any other in automotive history and made Toyota the world's number one carmaker.

By Toyota's staid standards, this was also risky, when its forte is making sensible, reliable, affordable and cheap-to-run motors.

So why do it? Well, British and European drivers do want cars that fit those criteria, but they also want dynamism and, if the Corolla name had been applied to footwear, it would have been on some slippers.

So the Corolla was replaced in 2006 by the Auris: great name, derived from the Latin name for gold – remember that dastardly James Bond villain Auric Goldfinger?

So the Auris set a new gold standard in the family hatchback sector and erased memories of the Corolla, right? Er, no…

It was actually pretty much business as usual. Despite a more European look, the Auris had all the usual Toyota virtues but was no more exciting.

However, British buyers could at least get pumped up by the fact that, like latter-day Corollas sold here, it was built in the UK at Toyota's huge plant near Derby.

And the Auris sold decently, though for all the usual Toyota reasons, until 2012, when the second-generation car arrived and, do you know what, people noticed.

The current car is far more arresting to look at inside and out and even drives better while not yet approaching the sector's ruling trio on that front – the VW Golf, Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra.

Nevertheless, it can be argued that the Mark II Auris is more stylish than all three, both in five-door hatch or all-new rakish yet roomy Touring Sports format – that's estate car to you and me.

True to form, Toyota has ensured that whatever version of the latest Auris you buy it will have all the established brand virtues that made the Corolla a world-beater.

Underpinning its appeal to the pocket is a range of engines that won't let you down on reliability or economy and have six-speed manual gearboxes as standard, starting with the entry-level 98bhp 1.33-litre petrol unit (52.3mpg on combined cycle), which enables pricing to start at a competitive £14,495.

For those wanting more oomph and motorway refinement, there is the 130bhp 1.6-litre petrol (from £17,995) tested here; this is quiet and responsive and has an official combined cycle 47.9mpg.

For out and out economy, though, you have the choice of the 89bhp 1.4-litre diesel (74.3mpg combined and from £16,295) or petrol-electric hybrid (78.5mpg and from £20,645) – the latter's 87g/km CO_2 emissions figure also means zero road tax.

A previous road test of the hybrid showed how hard Toyota has worked to ensure that this paired powertrain plus batteries does not impinge on interior space and versatility.

But its lack-lustre CVT (continuously variable transmission) automatic gearbox – no manual choice here – affects the driving experience, even if you can average about 70mpg in the real world without much driver effort.

On balance, though, I prefer the 1.6 petrol all-rounder, which allows the driver to exploit the best of the Auris driving characteristics; this generation couldn't be easier to drive but can also be hustled far more than before and has the sporting looks to match.

Build quality is rock solid, the dashboard well organised – with an impressive 6.1-inch Toyota Touch infotainment screen – and the cabin is spacious and versatile.

The whole package is backed by Toyota's five-year/100,000-mile warranty – one of the best.

NTW

Toyota Auris Icon Plus 1.6

Price:	£18,795
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£125/year
Best rival:	Kia Ceed

Kent dealers

Motorline

Ashford	0844 822 7122
Canterbury	0844 822 7131
Tun' Wells	0844 822 7171

FirstGEAR
Motoring news

Surging demand

SEAT continues to climb the UK sales chart, having posted record first half-year volumes for the third time consecutively, up by a fifth against the same period in 2013, and twice that of the UK market's overall trend.

Sales to private buyers were even better, rising by a third and largely through surging demand for the VW-owned Spanish marque's racy Ibiza supermini and impressive Leon family-hatchback line-ups.

Cross Panda good

POUND for pound, Fiat already produces one of the best 4x4s available – the little five-door Panda 4x4.

But the Italian brand has now come up with a rougher, tougher sister, the Panda Cross (from £15,945) creating what Fiat calls ''a proper off-road vehicle with the efficiency and practicality of a versatile city car'' featuring such 'big 4x4' kit as an electronic locking differential and hill descent and terrain controls.

Skoda's dark side

SKODA has blackened the name of every one of its eight models – by introducing 'Black Edition' versions with black exterior detailing and alloys (Yeti SUV pictured).

Priced from just £10,900 for the Citigo city-car version and based on already well-equipped SE models, these cars also come with DAB radio and sat-nav as standard to make them as attractive to the pocket as they are arresting to the eye.

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DEALER NAME	DEALER

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Title: Animal Management Lecturer
(Maternity Cover)

Location: Medway Campus

Role: We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and experienced individual to join our Animal Care Department. They will contribute to the delivery and success of courses from Entry level to Level 3 with specific experience managing courses at Level 1 desirable but not essential. In addition to the teaching role they will actively engage with the wider extra-curricular activities in the faculty. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification. This position is a fixed term maternity cover post.

To apply for this position please contact
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack

Closing: 25/07/14

Salary: £29,061 (depending on qualifications & experience)

MidKent College

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Spencer PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancy for the following staff:

Clinical Effectiveness Nurse – Margate

Part time Hours: 22.5 per week Closing date: 15/08/2014
Salary: £28,000 pro rata

Qualifications
- **Registered Nurse 1st level**
- **Evidence of continual professional development**
- **3 years post registration experience**
- **Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge of surgical/medical procedures**
- **Experience of Clinical audit processes**

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Mary Guarnieri, Ward Manager, on 01843 234252

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Emily Fraser, HR Assistant

Telephone: 01304 245951

E-mail: emily.fraser@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer. This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

School Cook/Manager
required at Gravesend Primary School.
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required at St Alban's Infant School in Dartford.

Cook / Manager
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Please contact **Gill Russell**
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THE NEW SCHOOL AT WEST HEATH
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SCHOOL CLEANER

The New School at West Heath
is a Specialist Independent residential school.

We have a vacancy for an experienced Cleaner to join the Cleaning Team.

Working 15 hrs per week – 3pm to 6pm Monday to Friday

There may be opportunities to work extra hours at weekends

Salary is £8.30 per hour

Please contact Laura Christmas on 01732 460553

The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Thamesview SCHOOL

Hair and Beauty Tutor / Teacher

(Part time Maternity Cover)

3 days a week from September 2014

Number on roll: 740

Type of School: 11- 16 Mixed High School

Salary: Thamesview Unqualified Teacher Scale

Closing date: 29th August 2014, 9.00 am

Interviews: Week Commencing 8th September 2014

Do you want to join an innovative Vocational Team with high aspirations for students? We are seeking to appoint an outstanding practitioner who will work with a committed and inspiring team in raising professional practice and achievement further.

Thamesview is a school where everyone is expected to do their best and rapidly rising examination results reflect this. We benefit from a new school building that provides innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

Our ideal candidate will:
- be an enthusiastic and imaginative practitioner, who is passionate about teaching and learning.
- have evidence of student achievement either in an educational institution or industry environment.
- be eager to inspire and motivate students to achieve their potential
- have high aspirations for all students, is passionate about learning and can contribute new and creative ideas to this subject area;
- have a proven track record of achievement

Candidates with teaching/training experience are encouraged to apply, though all experienced industry professionals will be considered. This is an excellent opportunity to develop your teaching skills and to be part of many new initiatives started by our outstanding vocational team. Flexible working hours will be required. We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our children and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities and bespoke leadership pathways.

If you are interested in joining us in our journey towards becoming an outstanding school, please contact our HR Manager on 01474 566552, ext. 1120; alternatively email k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk. Further details and visit information can also be provided.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau). Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Thamesview SCHOOL

Librarian

(Temporary Cover)

Type of School: 11- 16 Mixed High School

Hours of work: 37 hrs per week 40 wks per year

Salary: Kent Range 7 £20,878 to £23,752 pa Pro rata £18,018 to £20,498 pa

Closing date: 29th August 2014, 9.00 am

Interviews: w/c 8th September 2014

We wish to appoint an enthusiastic member of staff to cover the role of Librarian while the post holder is on Adoption Leave from September 2014 onwards. We are looking for someone with good ICT skills and a passion for reading to take an active part in the day-to-day running of a library.

The successful applicant must:
- Have good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Be able to demonstrate a passion for and hands on approach to ICT.
- Work with diligence and accuracy.
- Be confident to work independently and multi-task.
- Be willing to undertake training.

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report in 2011 and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on **01474 566552 ext 1120**; or email **k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk**

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Kitchen Assistants Required

Kitchen assistants required weekdays (lunchtime and evening service) and weekends.

The Anchor & Hope is a country pub and restaurant based in the village of Ash (near Sevenoaks). The restaurant sits 40 covers and the bar area the same. The style of food being served is gastro.

The Anchor & Hope was taken over under new management a month ago and already sales of food has increased by almost double.

What we are looking for:

Kitchen assistants to work weekdays and weekends helping the current chef in delivering excellent quality gastro food in a speedily time.

We would like our kitchen assistants to come up with new and exciting gastro dishes which can be used on our daily specials board.

Contact details:
Ben Eldridge and Emma Pearson
Anchor & Hope, South Ash Road, Ash, Kent TN15 7ER
Tel: 01474 872382
Email: anchor_hope@hotmail.com

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND AT ENSDEN OAST, LOWER ENSDEN ROAD, CANTERBURY

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates' Court on 2 September 2014 at 10:30 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Ensden Oast, Lower Ensden Road, Canterbury as edged red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Hayley Fairbairn by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, by email Hayley.Fairbairn@kent.gov.uk, or by telephone 01622 696063 before 23 August 2014 quoting reference number LS/21/104947/440.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Hayley Fairbairn using the contact details shown above.

JOHN BURR
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund
Ashford Highway Depot
Henwood Industrial Estate
Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8AD

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

PLANNING

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0776/SH - 3 New Inn Cottages High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Listed Building Consent for the replacement of external render to South elevation

Y13/1074/SH - The Grand The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2LR - Change of use and conversion of derelict rooms to form seven self contained units together with the upgrading of facilities and internal and external alterations.

Y14/0798/SH - 45 The Street Hawkinge Folkestone Kent CT18 7DD - Alterations and additions to front boundary treatment/ access.

Y14/0779/SH# - Gun House Cannon Street New Romney Kent TN28 8BH - Felling of a Holly, a Pittosporum and a Laburnum tree, all situated within a conservation area

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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Get in your saddle at Brands Hatch and take on some sporting legends

Cyclothon UK is a 12-hour event raising funds for charity by letting the public go wheel to wheel with some sporting celebrities, including top international rugby stars

IT'S one of the biggest boom sports in the land – and this autumn cycling takes centre stage at Brands Hatch, with riders from all walks of life welcome to take on sporting legends.

September's Cyclothon UK gives riders of varying abilities the chance to compete against international sportsmen in the annual 12-hour event on the Grand Prix circuit – and all the while raise funds for charity.

Cyclothon UK was created by former England rugby prop Victor Ubogu as a competitive event for cyclists, with the pledge to raise £1 million for charity over five years.

In addition to raising funds, riders can also contest prizes.

Brands Hatch was founded as a cycling venue before becoming world-famous for car- and motorcycle-racing and hosted road-cycling at the 2012 Paralympics.

The course, which used much of the undulating Grand Prix circuit, was praised as the best yet, and the winning of two gold medals by racing driver Alex Zanardi was voted as the greatest moment of the Games.

The event will also revive old sporting rivalries from the rugby field thanks to the Home Nations Trophy, which offers charity riders and keen cyclists the chance to ride alongside celebrities.

Cyclothon UK events have attracted a range of sporting charities and helped raise more than £150,000.

The RFU Injured Players Foundation has entered teams every year as it works to raise funds for seriously-injured rugby payers. Also joining this year from the rugby world will be teams from the Matt Hampson Foundation and J9 Foundation, South African legend Joost van der Westhuizen's charity.

Individuals and teams are welcome to register for Cyclothon UK. Organisers are also encouraging businesses and schools to come to the event to cheer on everyone taking part.

Entry is free for all spectators and the event will run for 12 hours from 7.30am until the award-presentation ceremony on the podium at 7.30pm.

Ubogu said: "A lot of my old rugby mates have got into cycling and every year we get more and more ex-players looking to race in Cyclothon.

"We launched the Home Nations Trophy as I was confident that my

Shakey happy to extend lead after a 'hard weekend' at home

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne extended his lead in the MCE British Superbike Championship at Sunday's Brands Hatch meeting but will be disappointed not to have claimed a victory in either of the two races at his home circuit.

Riding the Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki Ninja ZX-10R, the Sittingbourne ace took pole position but was beaten to first place by just a 10th of a second by fellow triple champion Ryuichi Kiyonari in the first race. It was Byrne's ninth successive podium.

In the second race, Byrne had to overcome being hit by James Ellison as he clattered out of the race. Somehow he stayed on his bike, although the race was stopped immediately. In the restarted contest in wet conditions, Byrne elected for caution and a safe points haul in finishing fifth. His main championship rivals took the chequered flag behind him, allowing Byrne to extend his title lead further to 92 points.

His important Podium Credits tally is now 39, a lead of 25.

Byrne said: "It's been a hard weekend and although I managed to take the pole position I had to work really hard as we were constantly making changes with the bike to try to get it to work how I wanted it to.

"I really enjoyed the first race and fair play to Kiyo – he rode really well.

"I led for the first part of the race, but once he came by I knew I had to try to pass him as he was really strong coming out of the last corner.

"I tried a couple of times on the last lap, but there wasn't a real opportunity to do anything so I settled for a safe second.

"The second race got off to the worst start when James crashed in front of me and the bike caught my brake-lever and trapped my hand between the handlebar, although, luckily, there was no major damage to my fingers.

"In the restart, we had difficult conditions to contend with in the wet, so the plan was to stay out of trouble as my main title rivals were all behind me.

"Another podium would have been great and while second and fifth could have been better, I was able to pick up the King of Brands trophy, so the weekend ended on a good note."

NTW

STANDINGS...

Points after five rounds

1) **Byrne** 221pts
2) **Brookes** 129
3) **Ellison** 124
4) **Kiyonari** 107
5) **Bridewell** 101
6) **Walker** 96

■ The next round of the championship is at Thruxton, Hampshire, from Friday to Sunday, August 1-3.

CREATOR: The cycling event is organised by former England rugby player Victor Ubogu, this picture. Above: the victorious Home Nations Trophy winners, the Welsh

fine squad of English Bulldogs would conquer the track.

"In Rory Underwood, Lee Mears, Phil de Glanville, Jon Callard, Graham Dawe and Jon Sleightholme we had some fit and strong cyclists.

"However, I underestimated the determination of Team Jocks led by Craig Chalmers and Scott Hastings and the sheer madness of Colin Charvis, Alix Popham and the Welsh boys, who stayed in the bar until 5am, got on their bikes two hours later and still beat our entire team!

"Team Bulldogs have retreated and retrained and we are ready this year to steal the cup away from the Welsh."

Registration to compete in the event is open until Friday, August 29.

Those wishing to enter a team or to ride solo can book by calling VU Ltd on 0871 871 5300.

Spectators are welcome all day with no charge to enter Brands Hatch during the event.

For further details, you can visit www.cyclothonuk.com.

Pictures: ANDY KELLY

DUEL: Shane Byrne (67) had to settle for second place behind rival Ryuichi Kiyonari in the first race at Brands Hatch

Sport **Shorts** » Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Dave Mairs** on **01233 653479**

Fans have chance to choose Gills sound

WHAT music would you like Gillingham to walk out to at Priestfield?

The club are asking fans for their suggestions as to what the official walk-out sound should be during the forthcoming Sky Bet League One season.

Several songs have been used in the last 12 months to greet the players on to the pitch, but Gills now want supporters' views as the clock ticks down to the new campaign.

So the club are appealing for you to "get your thinking caps on and come up with a fantastic piece of motivational, hard-hitting, dramatic music that can get both the players and fans going before kick-off".

Manager Peter Taylor and his players want the fans to get involved ahead of the new season and you can submit your choice via Twitter and Facebook or email media@priestfield.com

Songs will not be accepted that include inappropriate language or harmful references or could be considered inappropriate. 'Motivational' is the key word for team and supporters alike.

Following the pre-season friendly against Ipswich, a short-list of songs will be presented, with a final vote then being cast before the chosen song is played prior to the opening league game against Yeovil Town on Saturday, August 16.

Songs that have already been suggested include:

- **Eye of the Tiger, by Survivor**
- **Cochise, by Audioslave**
- **Heart of Courage, by Two Steps From Hell**
- **White Stripes, by Seven Nation Army**
- **Welcome to the Jungle, by Guns N' Roses**
- **The Liquidator, by Harry J and the Allstars**
- **Kashmir, by Led Zeppelin**
- **Fanfare for Rocky, by Bill Conti**
- **Thunderstruck, by AC/DC**
- **Ready to Go, by Republica**
- **We're Gonna Win, by Bryan Adams**

Gillingham won the north Kent clash at Princes Park on Tuesday night, thumping Dartford 4-0.

Goals from Amine Linganzi, Luke Norris, Antonio German and Brennan Dickenson sealed a convincing performance in which Taylor changed his entire side at half-time.

He started Danny Kedwell and Norris up front, with Doug Loft and Amine Linganzi running the midfield.

Josh Hare was selected at right-back, with Gary Borrowdale looking after the left side.

Linganzi's opener rounded off an excellent team move before Norris made it two in the 14th minute after pressurising Darts keeper Deren Ibrahim; it was Norris's first Gillingham goal.

Things continued in much the same vein in the second half and just before the hour mark Dack made it 3-0 with a cool finish.

A wholly impressive victory was wrapped up in the dying moments when Dickenson smashed home the visitors' fourth.

A poor evening for Dartford on the pitch, but they will be pleased with another healthy pre-season crowd, this time numbering 924.

Gordon's girls bowling along

KENT lawn-bowler Sian Gordon has skipped the England women's four to two victories in the opening days of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

England beat Canada on the first competitive day of the Games on Thursday before comfortably overcoing Norfolk Island the following day.

The former Simon Langton Grammar School For Girls pupil led the team to a 21-11 victory over Canada before a 22-7 success against Norfolk Island.

In hockey, England's women beat Wales 2-0. Canterbury's Susannah Townsend and Holcombe trio Maddie Hinch, Laura Unsworth and Lucy Wood were all in the winning team.

The England men's hockey team thumped Trinidad & Tobago 6-1 in another match with plenty of Kent interest.

Chatham-born Ashley Jackson and Holcombe's Ian Lewers, Nick Catlin and Barry Middleton all scored for England, while Canterbury player Mickel Pierre scored for the Caribbean outfit, for whom another Canterbury player, Kwan Browne, also featured.

Kent win a classic to maintain run

MORE than 1,300 runs, 20 wickets and a match that didn't lose a minute to the weather and went into the final two hours of the final day... Kent's 89-run win over Surrey at Guildford on Wednesday was all that four-day cricket should be about.

Their third successive LV= County Championship Division Two victory in a row was sealed by the excellent Darren Stevens, who finished with figures of 5-68.

Earlier Kent had been dismissed for 292, setting Surrey a target of 303.

Dilshan aside, they were always up against it and were eventually dismissed for 213.

Kent made 408 in their first innings, Sam Northeast top-scoring with 91, and Surrey 398 in theirs.

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